SAKANA

MAD RUPERT

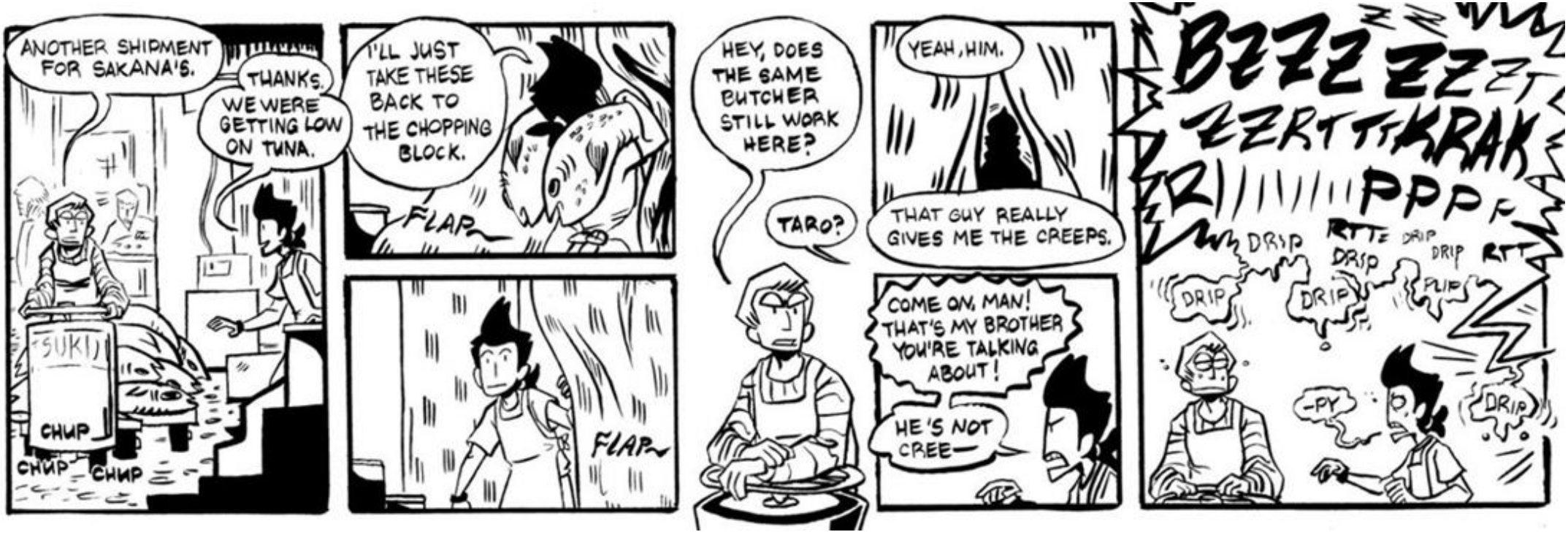
VOL. 1

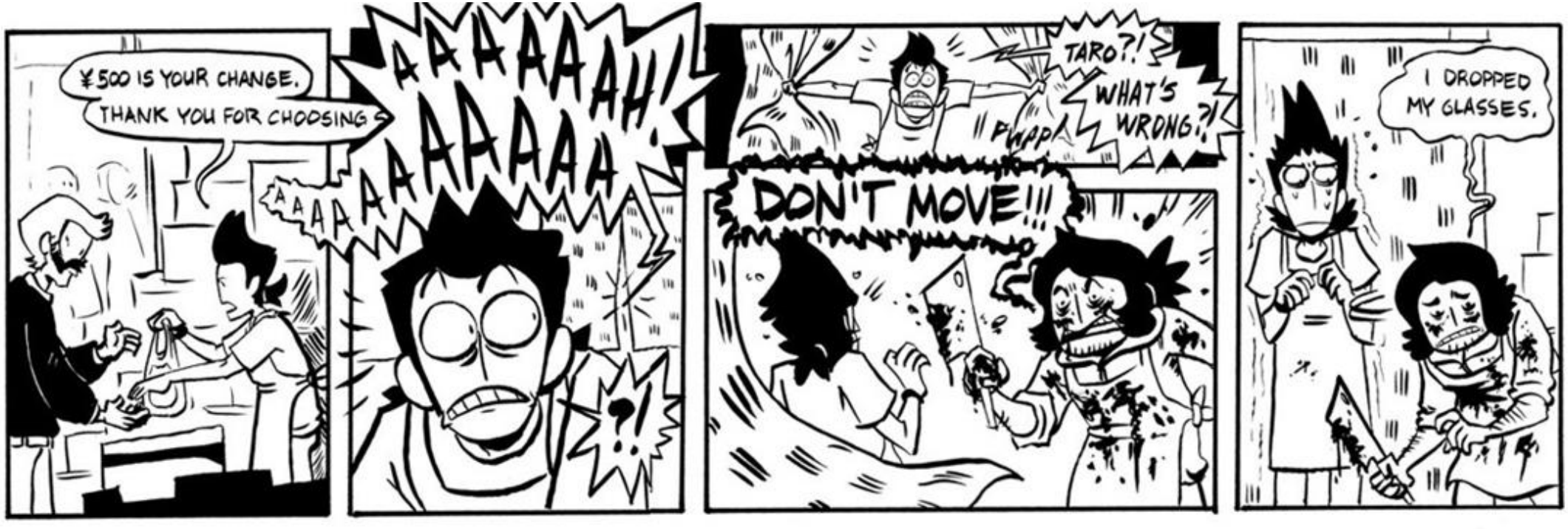
NAME: JIRO SAKANA
DOB: FEBRUARY 28
AGE: 22

AN ESPECIALLY
NERVOUS PERSON.

CHAPTER: I

SAKA
NOW YOU LISTEN AND YOU LISTEN GOOD, BUB.
I'M IN CHARGE OF THE STALL TODAY, SO WE'RE GONNA PLAY BY MY RULES.
MY UNCLE OWNS THIS STALL, AND HE RUNS A TIGHT SHIP.
I CAN'T AFFORD ANY SCREW-UPS WHILE I'M ON DUTY.
I DON'T LIKE BEING HERE ANY MORE THAN YOU DO, BUT SO HELP ME GOD, IF YOU STEP OUT OF LINE ONE MORE TIME THIS MORNING...
... ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
CLIP
CLICK
CLIP
...
I HOPE YOU GET BOILED.
...


ANOTHER SHIPMENT FOR SAKANA'S.
THANKS. WE WERE GETTING LOW ON TUNA.
SUKI
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
I'LL JUST TAKE THESE BACK TO THE CHOPPING BLOCK.
FLAP
FLAP
HEY, DOES THE SAME BUTCHER STILL WORK HERE?
TARO?
YEAH, HIM.
THAT GUY REALLY GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
COME ON, MAN! THAT'S MY BROTHER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
HE'S NOT CREE—
BZZZ ZZ ZZRT TTKRAK
PPP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
-PY


¥500 IS YOUR CHANGE.
THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING
AAAA
AAAAAAAAAH!
?!
TARO?!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
DON'T MOVE!!!
I DROPPED MY GLASSES.

YOU SHOULD KEEP A BETTER EYE ON THESE THINGS, TARO.
YOU'RE BLIND WITHOUT THEM.
WAS THAT A PUN?
N—... WAIT...
HA HA HA HA HA
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
PERFECT!
SO HOW'S BUSINESS OUT FRONT?
EASY WITHOUT UNCLE REN BREATHING DOWN MY NECK.
HOW'S IT GOING BACK HERE?
SAME OLD, SAME OLD.
SHRUG~
RIGHT, SO... I'M GONNA GET BACK TO WORK.
HAVE FUN!
YEAH... YOU TOO.

WELCOME TO SAKANA'S STALL AT THE TSUKIJI FISH MARKET.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
UNA
YES, I'D LIKE YOUR LARGEST CRAB PLEASE.
CLIP
CLIP
CLACK
EXCELLENT CHOICE, MA'AM.
I'LL JUST GET OUR BUTCHER TO KI—
I MEAN COOK THIS FOR YOU.
CHOP
SLICE
CHOMP!
AAAAAAHH!!
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
YOU CRUSTY SON OF A BITCH.....
WHERE'S MY CRAB?!

GET BACK HERE YOU NASTY LITTLE MONSTER!!!
?
U-UH.....
H-HELLO
....UM....
IS MY CRAB READY YET?!
SHIT
SHIT
SHIT!

THERE SHE IS, JIRO. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE MARKET.
COVER = OPEN
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ACROSS FROM HER FOR TWO YEARS AND YOU STILL DON'T KNOW HER NAME.
MAYBE IT REALLY IS "CASH REGISTER GIRL."
I MEAN... YOU'D TALK TO HER BUT THE... THE TIMING'S NEVER RIGHT.
TAK TAKKA TAK—
I JUST NEED A SIGN THAT TODAY'S MY LUCKY DAY....
SHHF
SHHFF
TAK TAK TAK
SHH—
KING CRAB
VICTOR
WELL ALRIGHT THEN.

TARO?
TARO!!
WHAT?!
I'M GONNA DO IT! I'M GONNA TALK TO CASHIER GIRL!
I NEED YOU TO WATCH THE STALL FOR A SECOND.
I'M KIND OF IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING, BRO.
AND YOU KNOW UNCLE REN DOESN'T LIKE ME OU
FRO
DON'T BE SILLY, THIS'LL ONLY TAKE A SECOND!
I GOTTA DO IT BEFORE I LOSE MY NERVE!
FLAP~
JUST TRY TO BE PERSON-ABLE!!
PERSON-ABLE.
RIGHT.

EXCUSE ME, DO YOU WORK HERE?
SALE!
SPLSH!
LAP!
ONE MOMENT SIR...
SPLOOSH!
FLAP!
SPLASH!
SLAP!
WAKE!
OKAY, CAN I HELP YOU?
PERSONABLE!

U-UM...
HI THERE...
DRUM
CAN I HELP YOU?
OH, I UH... CAN I GET YOUR ...UH...
I MEAN, WOULD YOU...
MAYBE...
UM...
UM... C-COULD, COULD I GET YOUR N-N-
N-NUM—
CAN I GET CHANGE FOR ¥2000?!
SO HOW DID IT GO?
SHE GAVE ME FOUR ¥500's.
SALE

I BLEW IT, TARO. SHE PROBABLY THINKS I'M SOME KIND OF FREAK NOW.
OH, DON'T BE LIKE THAT, BRO.
HERE, I KNOW SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!
OH GOD, NOT—
SWAK!!
IT'S MR. EEL HEAD!
Don't be Sad, Jiro!
SKWSH....

HERE. I DON'T EVEN WANT THIS ANY MORE.
C'MON, JIRO!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY OR SOMETHING...
THINK ABOUT IT!
SHE WORKS WITH MONEY EVERY DAY! CHANGE-MAKING MUST BE LIKE A SECOND LANGUAGE TO HER!
HMPH.
GIVING YOU TWO ¥1000'S WOULD HAVE BEEN THE EASIEST CHOICE.
ALMOST LIKE A SNUB!
AND TWENTY ¥100'S WOULD HAVE BEEN RIDICULOUS!
SHE WOULD HAVE SEEMED DESPERATE!
BUT NO! SHE GAVE YOU FOUR ¥500'S! FOUR'S A NICE, FRIENDLY NUMBER!
YOU'RE CRAZY, TARO.
OH, AND A PIECE OF PAPER.
WITH A PHONE NUMBER ON IT.

W-WOW...
SO ARE YOU GONNA CALL HER?!
I'LL CALL HER AFTER WORK.
UM...
Y-YOU CAN'T JUST RUSH THESE THINGS...
SSHHHH
LOCK
WOOOSH!
SO ARE YOU GONNA CALL HER?!
GUH!!

ARE YOU GONNA CALL HER NOW?
RRRGH!!

ARE YOU EVER GOING TO-
FINE!! FINE!!
I'M CALLING HER RIGHT NOW.
FLIP
COOL!
HERE, READ ME THE NUMBER.
OKAY!
ALRIGHT! ONE...
WAIT... CRAP, I PRESSED TWO.
... ONE-
1-CRAP!
...O-
SHIT!!
WHY IS THIS SO HARDDDD
GIMME THAT.

I-I MEAN I WOULD CALL HER, BUT...
I KNOW, I KNOW.
BOOP BOOP
WHAT'S IT DOING?! DID SHE PICK UP?!
IT'S RINGING, JIRO...
BRRRRR
HELLO?
HI, YOU MUST BE THE REGISTER GIRL!
NO, NO I'M HIS BROTHER, ACTUALLY.
YES, THE BUTCHER.
AHAHAHA!!
YEAH, HE CAN GET A LITTLE NERVOUS SOMETIMES.
HEY, LISTEN, I WANTED TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.
QUESTIONS...?
YOU DON'T GIVE YOUR NUMBER TO EVERY GUY WHO ASKS FOR CHANGE, DO YOU?
GIVE ME THAT!!!
POF!

H-HELLO?!!
HELLO?
OH, YOU'RE JIRO! I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE!
BUH!
S-SORRY ABOUT THE WHOLE CHANGE THING...UH...
HEHE!
IT'S ALRIGHT! IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO TALK TO ME ANYWAY!
...Y-YEAH...
HEY LISTEN, I'M ABOUT TO RUN TO MY SECOND JOB...
ARE YOU FREE TOMORROW?
uuuh... YEAH!
GREAT! WE COULD CATCH UP OVER LUNCH!
CATCH UP...?
GOTTA RUN! I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW!
CLICK!
SO WHAT'S HER NAME?
FUUU

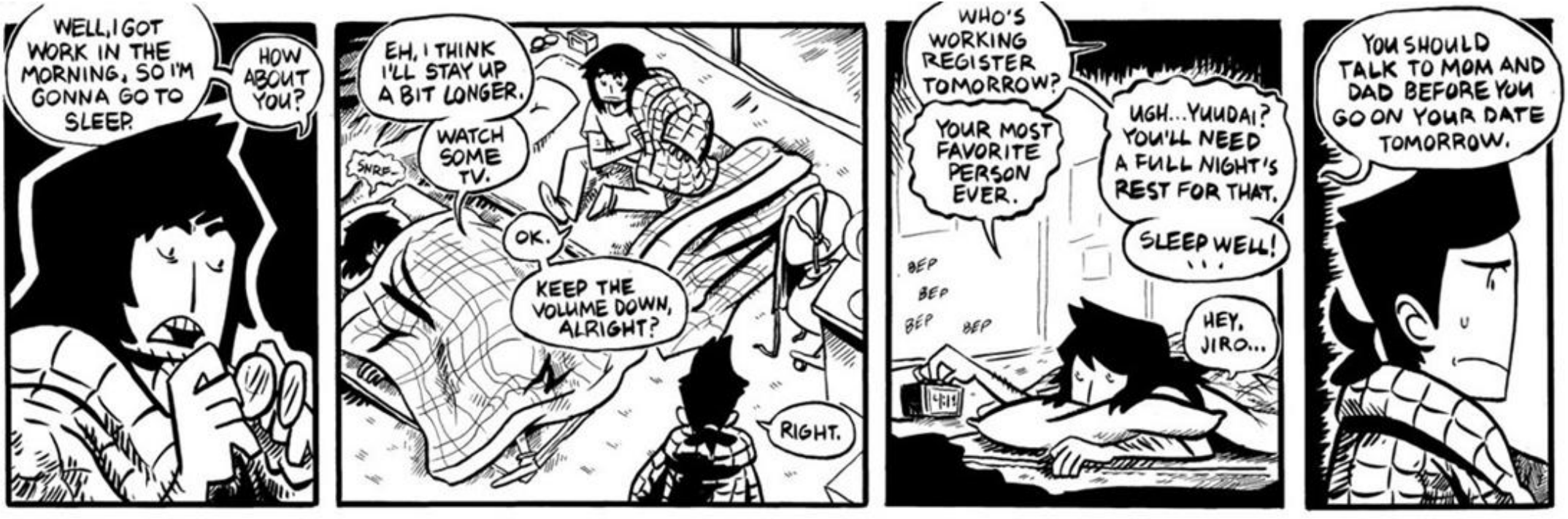
SO...WE'RE GONNA MEET TOMORROW AFTER WORK.
THAT WAS FAST.
YEAH...THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, TARO.
NO PROBLEM, LITTLE BRO! I ALWAYS GOT YOUR BACK!
REMEMBER WHEN YOU WANTED TO DATE THAT YUKI GIRL?
10 YEARS AGO
12
W-WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
NOT IF YOU WERE THE LAST BOY ON—
DATE MY BROTHER OR I'LL THROW YOU DOWN THE STAIRS!!!
16
YYYYEAH... GOOD THING THAT WASN'T ...NECISSARY THIS TIME.
GOOD THING SHE SAID YES!

TONIGHT ON IRON CHEF!!!
I HOPE THEY PICK SAKAI~
SHFF
BMP
BMP
...DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
BMP
JINGLE~
BMP
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY'S OUTSIDE...
HELLO-
CREEEE~
GNEHE~
BMP
JINGLE
BMP
BMP
WHAMP!!!
NYGH!!!
HURF!!!
JINGLE~
HEY BOYS!!
GUESS WHO'S DRUNK ?!
GNEHEHEHEHEHE

THAT WAS THE GREATEST OFFICE PARTY EVER!!
THERE WAS BEER!
AND CHICKS!!
A-AND... BEER!
AND.....
TAISEI-
JIRO!!! MY BEST BRO!!
HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU HOW AWESOME YOUR HAIR IS?!?!
WOOSHH
TAI!!!-
LOOK!! IT'S LIKE HANDLEBARS!!
KRK!
I'M RIDING A BIKE!
VROOOOO
BUH!

SO ARE YOU SURE THIS WHOLE "DATE A GIRL I TALKED TO TWICE" THING IS A GOOD IDEA?
HRMMGHH...
YOU WERE THE ONE TELLING ME TO CALL HER!
YEAH, BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WEIRD SHE ACCEPTED SO QUICK?
ZZNGHEHEHE
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
I DUNNO...
SOME GIGGLING.
SOME SHY GLANCES ACROSS THE MARKET...
Y'KNOW, SAPPY STUFF.
ARE YOU CALLING ME SAPPY?
WIP!
NO! I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO GET HURT!
WHOMP
OOOWWW

DON'T WORRY SO MUCH, TARO. I'LL BE FINE TOMORROW!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DATING HER ALREADY...
I MEAN, WE'RE JUST GETTING TOGETHER FOR LUNCH!
IT'S LIKE...AN INTEREST MEETING!!
PROBABLY...
POP!
ZZSSNRK—
SHF-
I'LL GO, WE'LL EAT, WE'LL CHAT...
AND WITH MY GOOD LOOKS AND CHARM,
I'LL KNOCK HER DEAD!
ZZZZZZZZ
MAKE SURE IT LOOKS LIKE AN ACCIDENT.


WELL, I GOT WORK IN THE MORNING, SO I'M GONNA GO TO SLEEP.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
EH, I THINK I'LL STAY UP A BIT LONGER.
SNRF-
WATCH SOME TV.
OK.
KEEP THE VOLUME DOWN, ALRIGHT?
RIGHT.
WHO'S WORKING REGISTER TOMORROW?
YOUR MOST FAVORITE PERSON EVER.
UGH...YUUDAI? YOU'LL NEED A FULL NIGHT'S REST FOR THAT.
SLEEP WELL!
BEP BEP BEP BEP
HEY, JIRO...
YOU SHOULD TALK TO MOM AND DAD BEFORE YOU GO ON YOUR DATE TOMORROW.

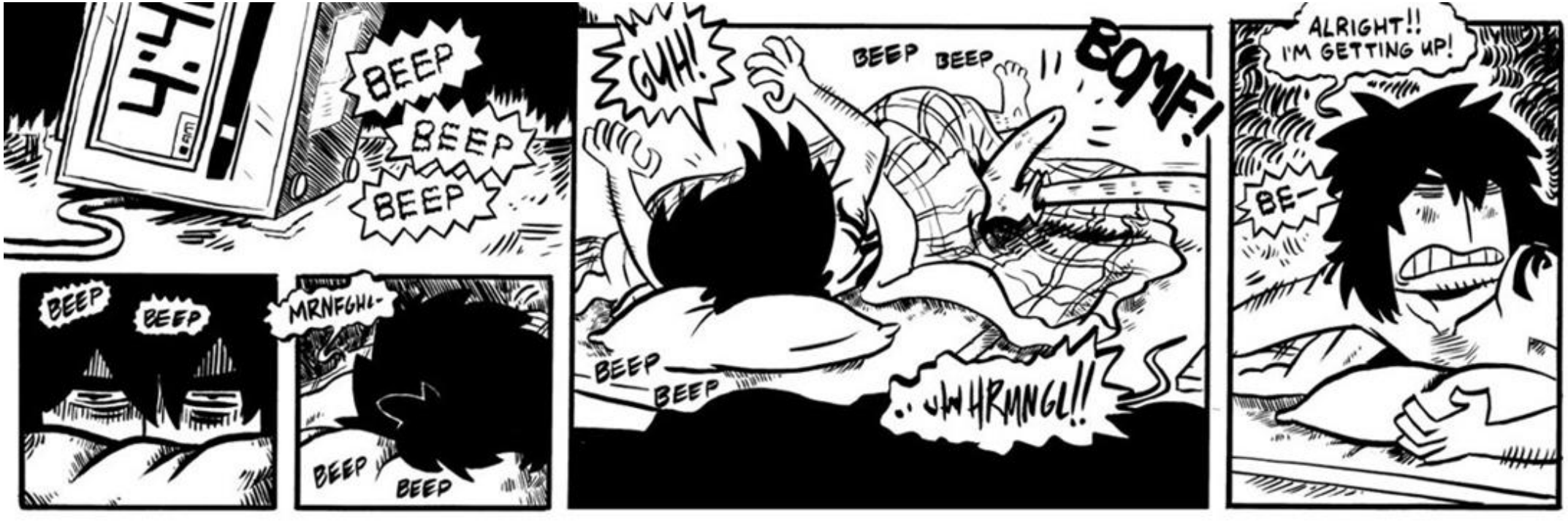
BLAM BLAM AAA!
KRRSH!!
GA-
CLICK
SHUFFL
SHUFFL
BOF-
uhhhh—...
GOT ANY ADVICE?

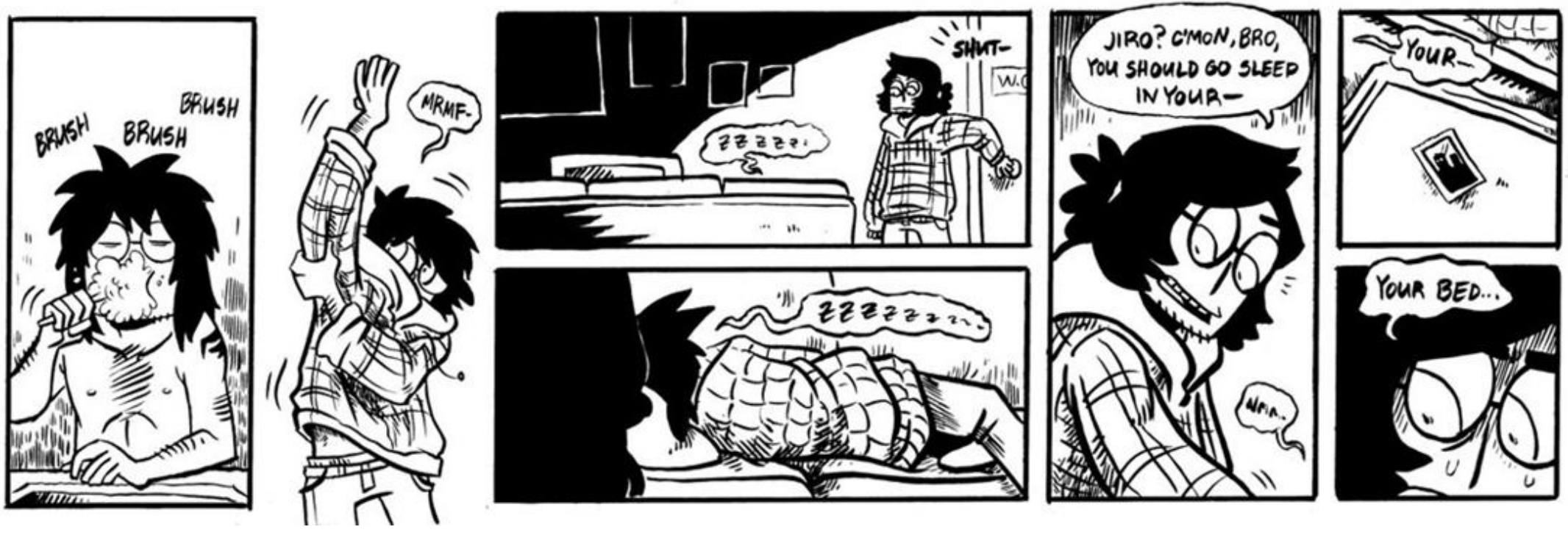
NAME: TARO SAKANA
DOB: APRIL 20
AGE: 26

REALLY LIKES
HIS JOB.

CHAPTER: II

4:30
AM
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
4:30
BEEP
BEEP
Mmhr
4:30
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
Be-
4:31
BAM
HRMNGFLMMCHMMMMM
POF-


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
MRNFGHL-
BEEP
BEEP
GUH!
BEEP BEEP
BOMF!
BEEP
BEEP
..UWHRMNGL!!
ALRIGHT!!
I'M GETTING UP!
BE-


BRUSH
BRUSH
BRUSH
MRMF-
SHIT-
ZZZZZ.
ZZZZZZZ.
JIRO? C'MON, BRO, YOU SHOULD GO SLEEP IN YOUR—
MRM.
YOUR—
YOUR BED...

H-HEY MOM AND DAD!
WAS JIRO TELLING YOU ABOUT HIS DATE THING TODAY?
I'M KIND OF WORRIED ABOUT IT... BUT HE'S NOT A KID ANYMORE SO.....
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
...
W-WELL, I'M GOING TO WORK NOW.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
SLAM
ZZZZZZZZZZ

Uuuhhgh... THIS IS GONNA BE A LONG DAY.
I CAN JUST TELL.
EXIT
SLAM
Apt.
FL.2
STAIRWELL
103
103
SSI
ICH
HRK-
DAMMIT, TAISEI!!!
LOCK BIKES
FOR YOUR SAFETY
BAMA'S

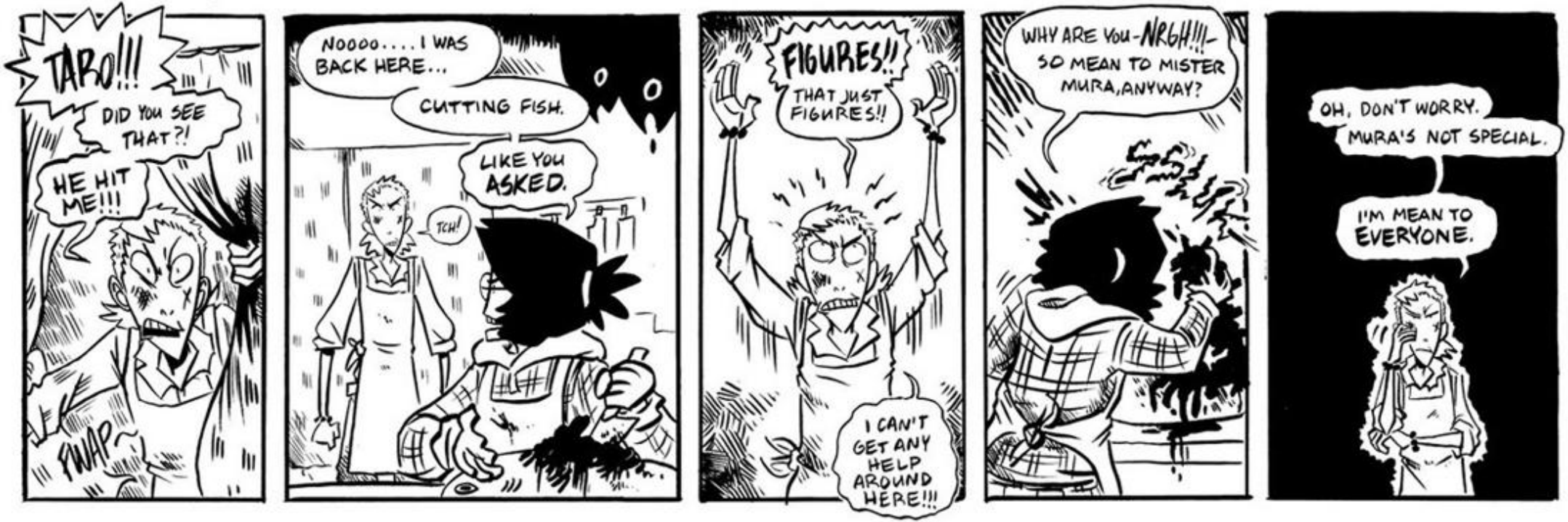
C'MON, TARO, GET IT TOGETHER! YOU'RE ACTING CRAZY!
ON-SAT. CLOSED SUN.
IT'S ONLY 5 IN THE MORNING, YOU CAN'T SPEND YOUR WHOLE DAY LIKE THIS!!
ENTEI
JIRO WILL BE FINE! YOU NEED TO STOP WORRYING AND JUST ACCEPT... THAT...
...THAT HE'S NOT YOUR BABY BROTHER ANYMORE!
HE DOESN'T NEED YOU TO PROTECT HIM... HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF!
JUMP!
SO YOU BUTT OUT OF IT AND STOP BEING SO...
PARANOID...
NEW ONE!!
IS SHE DECIEVING YOU?
PAGE 301
NOW
FLIP
JUMP!
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
JUMP!

CHIBA
MATSU MOTO
"QUESTION 1... ON A SCALE FROM 1 TO 10, HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW HER?"
UHH... MAYBE LIKE... A 2?
NO... PROBABLY JUST A 1...
STOCK
PICK UPS
NEW
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP

"AND YOUR ANSWER IS... SHE MIGHT BE DECIEVING YOU."
WHAAAAT— THAT'S A LOAD OF—
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
WHSTUPIDmmmm GODDAMNit.
OH CRAP....
YUUDAI...
HEY GUYS-
UHHHHH—
WHAT?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!!
STOP GAWKING AND GET BACK TO YOUR POST!!!

I REARRANGED THE STOCK IN THE BACK BECAUSE IT SEEMS TODAY'S SHIPMENT WILL BE LATE.
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU HAVE TO WORK WITH.
OK...
HEY!! DON'T YOU WALK AWAY FROM ME!
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
LISTEN, KID. I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH REN SAKANA FOR 20 YEARS!!
I DESERVE A LITTLE MORE RESPECT!
WORKING WITH?
YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING STOCK FOR HIS STALL!
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE BEEN WORKING AT HIS STALL FOR ALMOST A DECADE.
7 YEARS ISN'T A DECADE, YOU NASTY LITTLE WEASEL.
BUT I'M STILL THE SENIOR STAFF MEMBER HERE SO YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME, AND I SAY YOUR STOCK'S CRAP.
GO GET SOME MORE.

Y'KNOW, THE ONLY TIME I CATCH ANY FLACK IS WHEN YOU'RE AROUND!
ME?! I'M JUST CALLING IT LIKE I SEE IT?!
SIIIIGH-
MAYBE IF YOU'D DO YOUR JOB AND STOP BRINGING ME SUBPAR STOCK WE WOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM!!!
SUBPAR?!
BOY, IF IT WAS UP TO ME YOU'D BE OUT OF THIS MARKET SO FAST YOUR HEAD WOULD SPIN!!
SPLOOP
OOOOH- TOO BAD I'M THE SENIOR STAFF MEMBER!
THERE'S NO WAY I'D GET FIRED!!
AHAHAHA-
SHF-
PLOOK
PUNCH!!
OWWW!!!

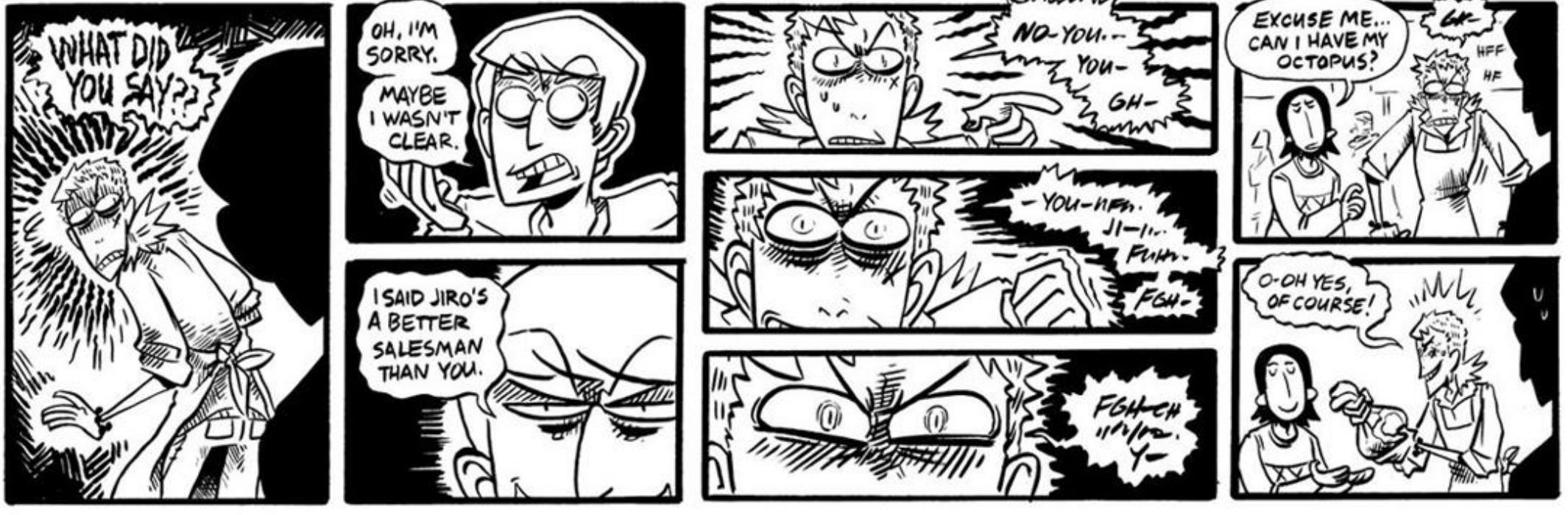

TARO!!!
DID YOU SEE THAT?!
HE HIT ME!!!
SWAP
NOOOO....I WAS BACK HERE...
CUTTING FISH.
LIKE YOU ASKED.
TCH!
FIGURES!!
THAT JUST FIGURES!!
I CAN'T GET ANY HELP AROUND HERE!!!
WHY ARE YOU-NRGH!!!-SO MEAN TO MISTER MURA, ANYWAY?
OH, DON'T WORRY. MURA'S NOT SPECIAL.
I'M MEAN TO EVERYONE.

RRRN6H!!
JUST LOOK AT THESE FIGURES FROM YESTERDAY!
LIVE EEL
SALE
SALE
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO CALCULATE A PERCENTAGE?!
YOU CAN'T JUST ROUND THINGS UP LIKE THAT!
ESTIMATED EARNINGS?!
NOW HE'S JUST CUTTING CORNERS!
HMPFF!!
I SWEAR...
IF JIRO WASN'T REN'S NEPHEW THERE'S NO WAY HEID EVER GET THIS JOB!!
HMMNEPOTISM~
AHEM~
EXCUSE ME...
BUT ARE YOU PEOPLE OPEN YET?
HM!
YES, OF COURSE, SIR!!
ZO-
OM!!

YES, HELLO. I'M LOOKING FOR SOME QUALITY SEAFOOD...
FOR A VERY IMPORTANT MENU.
WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?
OH... EHH— QUALITY?
WELL, WE'RE STILL WAITING ON SOME OF OUR STOCK-
SO...
YES, I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T DO. YOU SEE, THESE ARE VERY IMPORTANT GUESTS WE'RE HAVING.
PHF—
ERR— RIGHT, RIGHT. LEMME GO LOOK.
WE HAVE SOME CLAMS...
NO.
UH-CRAB LEGS.
NO.
UMM—
FWOOSH
SOME FRESHLY CUT—
UHH—
TUNA!!
TUNA!!
PLIP PLIP—

I'M AFRAID THIS SIMPLY WON'T DO.
WE HAVE STANDARDS TO UPHOLD AT MY RESTAURANT AND—
SIR, IF YOU'LL JUST HOLD UP A MOMENT
PLOOP—
TOSS~
OH WAIT! SCRATCH THAT!
SKRRT—
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
HERE, THIS IS OUR FINEST MERCHANDISE!
WOOSH—
OR IT BETTER BE.
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
LEMME SEE.....
ROE... SNAPPER...
AH!
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
HOW ABOUT OCTOPUS?
OH!
I THINK SOME THANKS ARE IN ORDER.
WKIJI
THANKS FOR NOT SCREWING ME OVER TWICE, ASSHOLE!

HERE, LEMME WRAP THIS UP FOR YOU.
REACH
Y'KNOW, THAT EXTRA STOCK DOESN'T COME FREE...
HMPF.
REN'S GONNA START WONDERING WHY HE LOSES SO MUCH MONEY WHEN YOU'RE ON CALL.
SNFF
LET'S CALL IT A QUALITY SERVICE TAX...
KEEP THE CUSTOMER HAPPY AND HE'LL BUY FROM YOU AGAIN!
WE'LL MAKE THIS BACK WITHIN THE WEEK.
YOU'LL SEE.
THAT MAY BE, BUT ON THE RECORD, IT'S GOING TO LOOK LIKE A LOSS.
AND YOU KNOW...
THERE'S NEVER ANY LOSSES WHEN JIRO'S ON CALL...
KKRK


WHAT DID YOU SAY??
OH, I'M SORRY.
MAYBE I WASN'T CLEAR.
I SAID JIRO'S A BETTER SALESMAN THAN YOU.
NO-YOU.--
YOU-
GH-
-YOU-HFF.
JI-I..
FUH.
FGH-
FGHCH
EXCUSE ME... CAN I HAVE MY OCTOPUS?
GH-
HFF
HF
O-OH YES, OF COURSE!

HERE YOU ARE! PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT US!
OH~ CERTAINLY! I'LL TELL EVERYONE!
SEE?! NOW WE'LL GET TWICE AS MANY CUSTOMERS!
YOU CAN'T EVEN COMPARE ME TO A HALF-RATE SALESMAN LIKE JIRO!!
SURE, MAYBE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING HERE.
BUT JIRO ALWAYS MANAGES TO SELL WHAT HE'S GIVEN!
THAT GUY MIGHT TELL TWO PEOPLE, TOPS, AND YOU DON'T ALWAYS MAKE THE SALE.
SO REALLY, HOW CAN'T I COMPARE YOU?
Y- YE~.
G-
OH, AND YOUR FACE LOOKS HYSTERICAL WHEN YOU'RE FLUSTERED.
SO THERE'S ANOTHER REASON.
OHO
HO HO

AARRGH!!
I HATE HIM SO MUCH!!!
ALL I'M ASKING IS FOR HIM TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STOCK.
THWNK
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE MONEY!
THAT'S MY JOB!!
I MEAN, IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK?!
HOP
MAYBE IF YOU ASKED NICER?
HRK-
SPLORT
NICER?!
I COME HERE TO WORK, NOT TO MAKE FRIENDS!!
MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS?

W-WELL, WHATEVER. I DON'T NEED THAT KIND OF STUFF TO BE A GOOD SALESMAN....
PFFT-
SKRT SKRT
BUT TO COMPARE ME TO JIRO!
OF ALL PEOPLE!
HE'S NOTHING BUT A-
KA-CHUNK
YUUDAI... I LET YOU COMPLAIN TO ME ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS...
BUT, AS WE'VE DISCUSSED....
IF IT'S ABOUT JIRO...
I'LL BE FORCED TO DISAGREE.
KUNK

C-COME ON, MAN!
JIRO DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO BE HERE!!
HE-
YNK-
HE...
...
HE WHAT?
HE'S...
UH...
UM...
UH-
MN-
HE'S NOT AS ANNOYING AS MURA.
OK?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
PLEASE CONTINUE.
HMPH-
MURA THINKS HE OWNS THIS PLACE!!
I KNOW HOW TO DRIVE THOSE CARTS!
WE DON'T EVEN NEED HIM!!
CHOP
CHOP

NAME: TAISEI TACHIBANA
DOB: JUNE 30
AGE: 22

MOST LIKELY
TO SUCCEED.

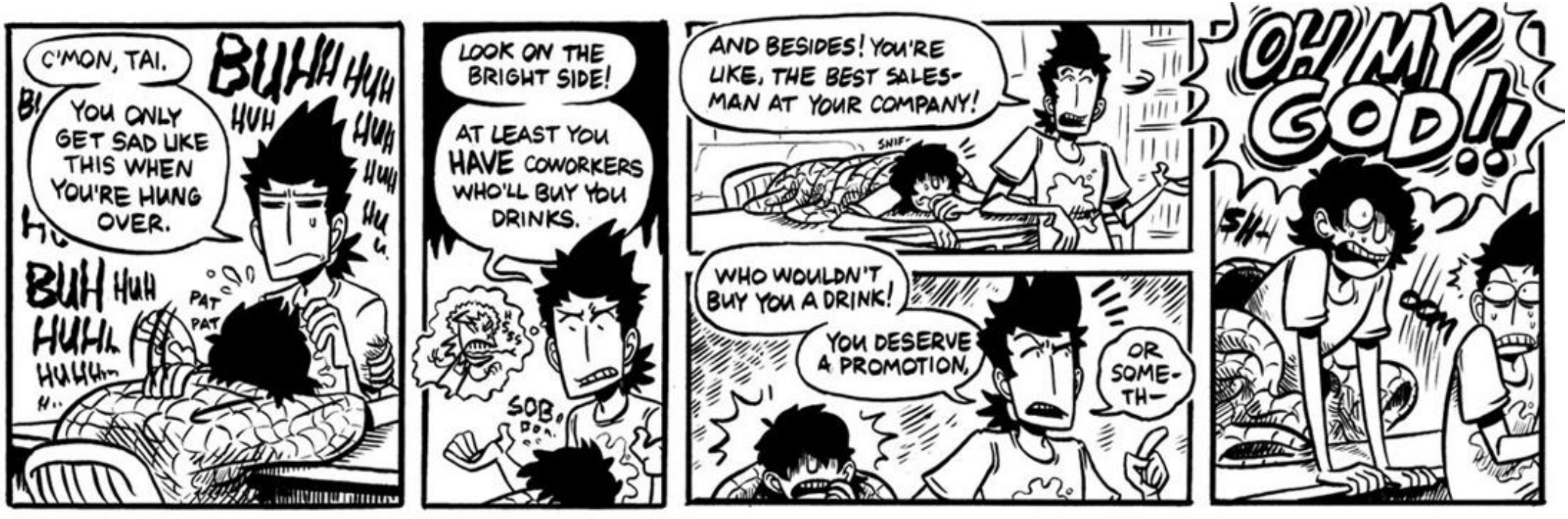
CHAPTER: III

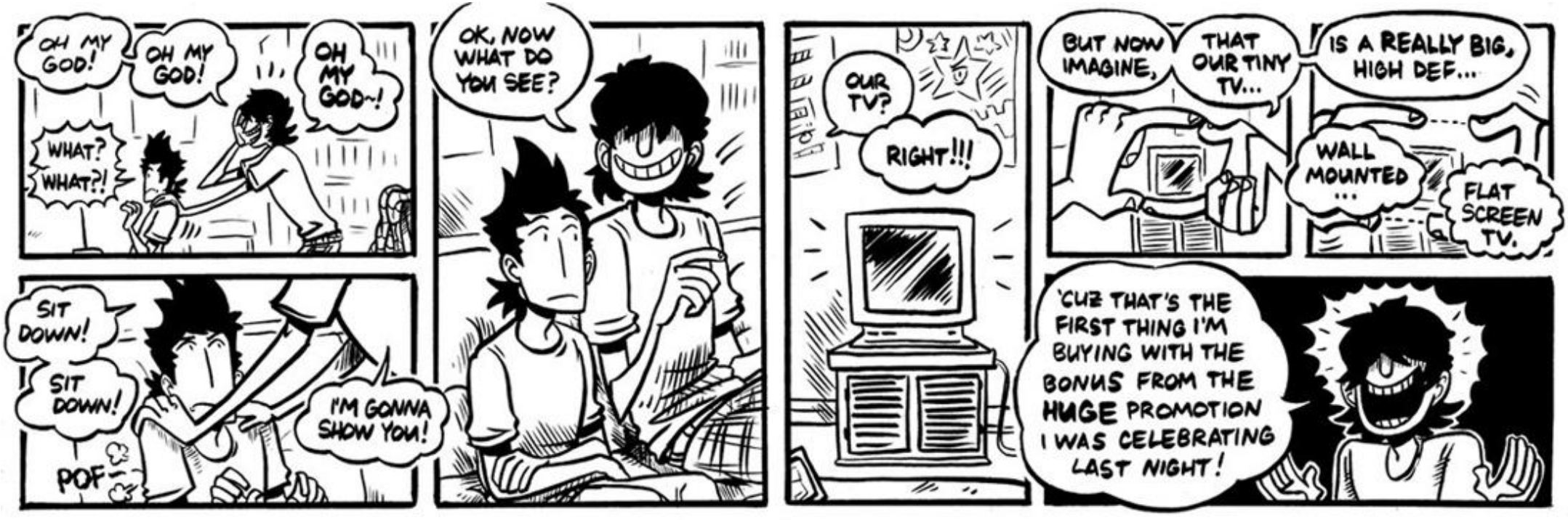
9:30 AM
HMMMNNIN...
SSNNRM
-HNK-
NSNM
SNRK
OOOOUH~ MY HEEEADDD~
GHH~

WOBBLE-
NNNG
WOBBL-
WUGH---
SSZZZ...
GODDAAAAMM-
NNNNN-
GAAHH?!
GUHHHH!!
AAHGH!!!
ERK-
WOOSH!!

TAISEI?
GOOOOD MORNING
WHY DID YOU SIT ON ME?
OH...
DUDE, I AM SO HUNG OVER RIGHT NOW, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A THROW PILLOW...
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY THROW PILLOWS...
YEAH, I KNOW.
BUT I THOUGHT, "AWESOME! MAYBE WE FINALLY GOT SOME!!!
NNGH
-I BET THEY'RE OOMPH REALLY SOFT!"
BUT THEN IT WAS YOU.
AND YOU'RE NOT VERY SOFT.
NO OFFENSE.
BMP
NONE TAKEN.
...
...
DID I TRY TO RIDE YOU LIKE A BIKE LAST NIGHT?

NOW, I DON'T MEAN TO PRY OR ANYTHING.
...
BUT THIS IS THE 5TH TIME IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS THAT YOU'VE COME HOME DRUNK.
Buhhm~
AS YOUR BEST FRIEND I FEEL I SHOULD BE CONCERNED.
HERE, IT'S TEA.
AW, THANKS~
I KNOW I DRINK TOO MUCH...
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE I HAD A GOOD REASON LAST NIGHT...
IS THERE EVER A REASON?
WELL, YEAH!
BUT MOST NIGHTS MY COWORKERS JUST BUY ME DRINKS...
'CUZ THEY THINK I'M FUNNY WHEN I'M DRUNK.
Y'KNOW, 'CUZ I'M SO TALL.
A-AND CLUMSY..
AND...
AWW, NOW I MADE MYSELF SAD...


C'MON, TAI.
YOU ONLY GET SAD LIKE THIS WHEN YOU'RE HUNG OVER.
BUHH HUH
HUH
BUH HUH
HUHH
HUHH...
H...
PAT PAT
LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE!
AT LEAST YOU HAVE COWORKERS WHO'LL BUY YOU DRINKS.
SOB!
AND BESIDES! YOU'RE LIKE, THE BEST SALESMAN AT YOUR COMPANY!
SNIF-
WHO WOULDN'T BUY YOU A DRINK!
YOU DESERVE A PROMOTION,
OR SOMETH-
OH MY GOD!!
SHH

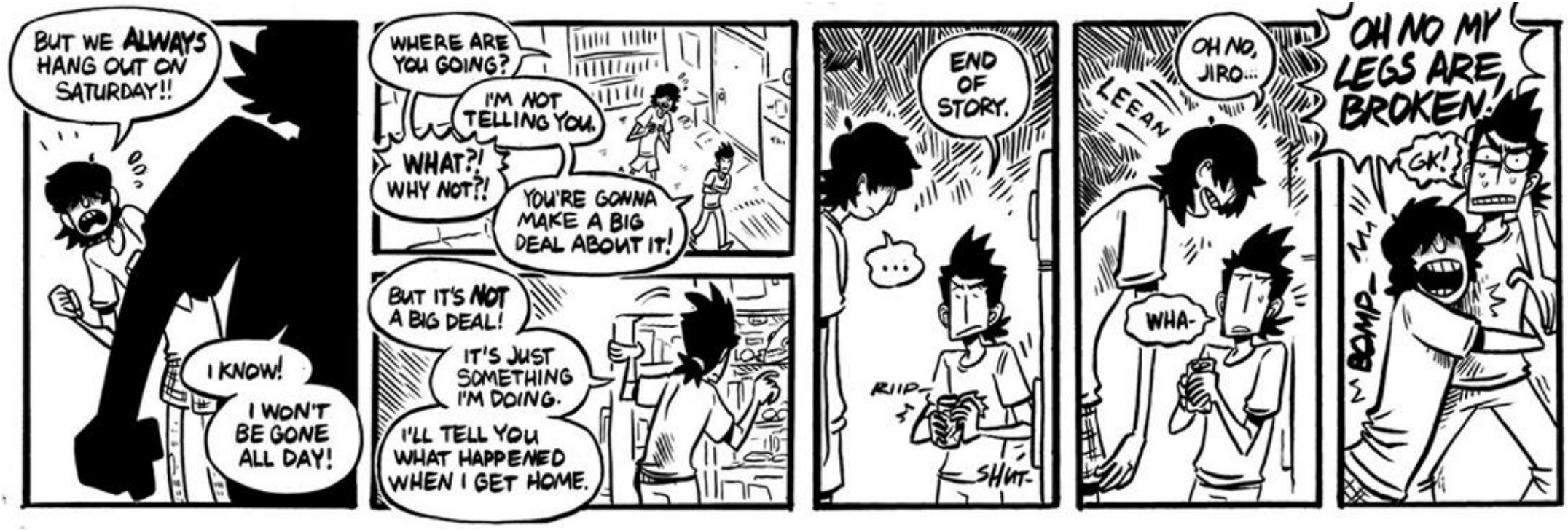

OH MY GOD!
OH MY GOD!
OH MY GOD~!
WHAT? WHAT?!
SIT DOWN!
SIT DOWN!
POF
I'M GONNA SHOW YOU!
OK, NOW WHAT DO YOU SEE?
OUR TV?
RIGHT!!!
BUT NOW IMAGINE,
THAT OUR TINY TV...
IS A REALLY BIG, HIGH DEF...
WALL MOUNTED...
FLAT SCREEN TV.
'CUZ THAT'S THE FIRST THING I'M BUYING WITH THE BONUS FROM THE HUGE PROMOTION I WAS CELEBRATING LAST NIGHT!

YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE NEW
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN SALES
FOR THE NO.PED SCOOTER COMPANY!
OH MY GOD, THAT'S SO GREAT!!
CONGRATS!!
ge he he hee
AND GET THIS:
MY SALARY'S BEEN LIKE ...
DOUBLED NOW!
AND I WAS THINKING...
SINCE IT'S SATURDAY...
THE TWO OF US COULD SPEND THE WHOLE DAY...
CELEBRATNG...
BY GOING
SHOP PING
UMmm...

OK! LET'S SEE...
WE'RE GONNA GET THE TV...
AND THERE'S A BUNCH OF CLOTHES I WANT...
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY THEM ON FOR ME.
TAI...
'CUZ THEY NEVER CARRY MY SIZE!!
BUT I'LL GET THEM FOR YOU IF YOU LIKE THEM!
OOO~ THIS IS GONNA BE FUN!
TAISEI.

I HAVE OTHER PLANS.

WHAT.

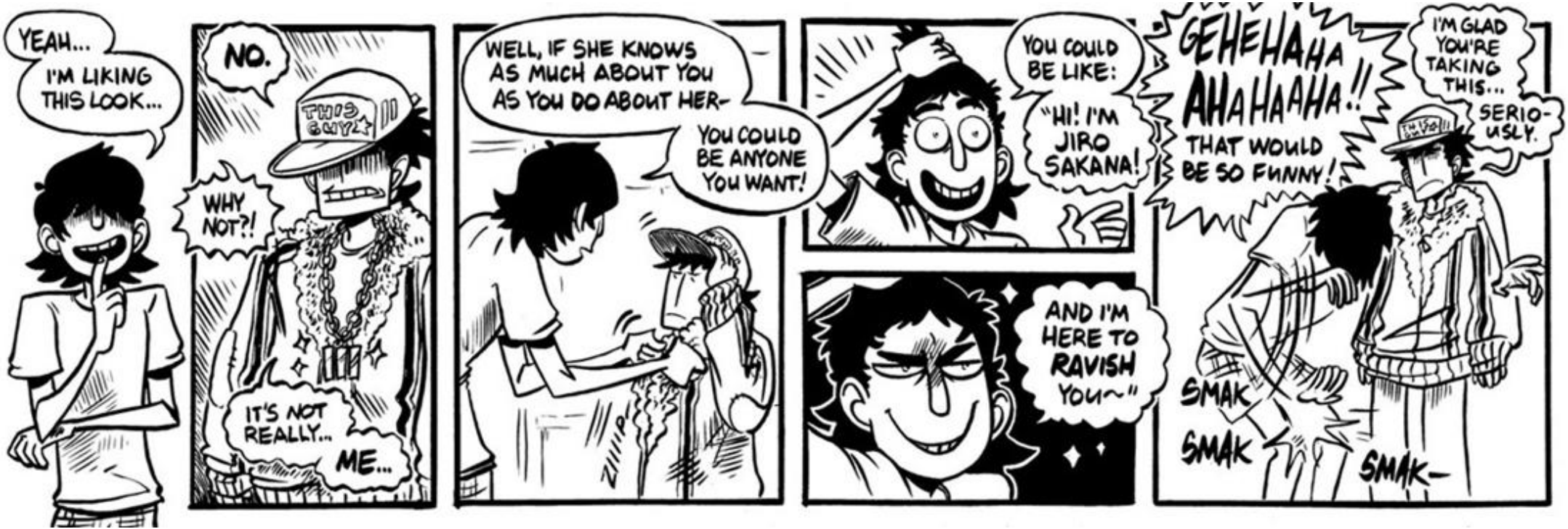

BUT WE ALWAYS HANG OUT ON SATURDAY!!
I KNOW!
I WON'T BE GONE ALL DAY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M NOT TELLING YOU.
WHAT?! WHY NOT?!
YOU'RE GONNA MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT IT!
BUT IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL!
IT'S JUST SOMETHING I'M DOING.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I GET HOME.
END OF STORY.
...
RIIP-
SHIT-
OH NO, JIRO...
LEEAN
WHA-
OH NO MY LEGS ARE BROKEN!
GK!
BOMP-

YOUR LEGS AREN'T BROKEN!!
DUDE!! THEY TOTALLY ARE!!!
AND THEY'LL BE =ERK=
BROKEN FOREVER
UNLESS YOU TELL ME!!!
THIS STOPPED WORKING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!!
JUST TELL ME!!
NO!!!
DRAG-
DRAG-
DRAG-
HELLL GEEE~!
BONK-
RRGH!
ALRIGHT!
I'M GOING ON A DATE!
BOP-
A DATE?!
GEHEHE HEHE!!
EHEE~
NO, SERIOUSLY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YOU'RE ACTUALLY DATING?!
REALLY?
NO, NO I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID DATE.
IT'S NOT A DATE.
IT'S AN INTEREST MEETING!
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?
LOOK, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'VE GOT THIS UNDER CONTROL.
ALRIGHT, DUDE!
SORRY I DOUBTED YOU!
THAT'S OKAY.
SO WHAT'S HER NAME?

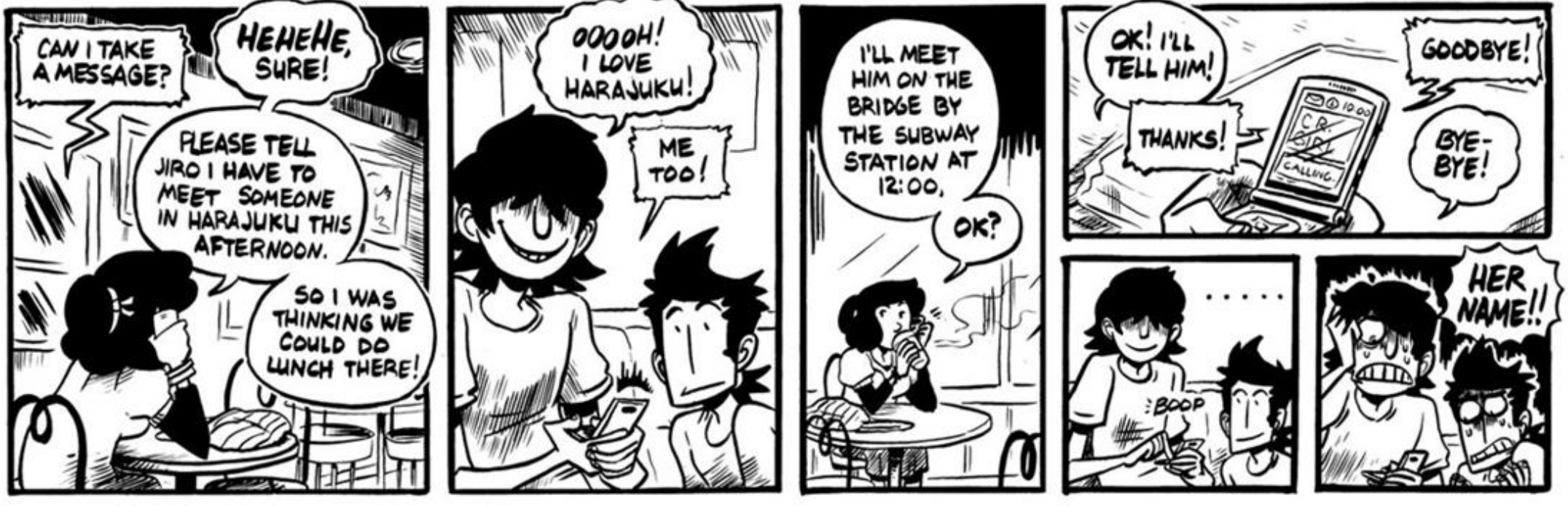
C'MON, TAI! YOU'RE OVER-REACTING!
YOU WANNA GO OUT WITH THIS GIRL AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME?!
WHAT IS THIS, A BLIND DATE?
SHUF- SHUF-
IT'S NOT A DATE...
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN HER?
2 YEARS...
AND YOU STILL DON'T KNOW HER NAME?!
CHEW-
I DUNNO...
EXACTLY. HERE, START LOOKING THROUGH THESE AND FIND SOMETHING YOU LIKE.
WHAT IS IT?
CLOTHES I'VE GROWN OUT OF.
SCOOT SCOOT
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HER NAME,
THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS LOOK NICE FOR HER.
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH IT?
OH MY GOD.
SMAK

HOW'S IT LOOKING?
IT'S A ... LITTLE BIG.
SHUFFL
SHUFFL
WHAT?!
THAT WAS THE SMALLEST SHIRT IN THE BOX!
LEMME SEE!
IT DOESN'T LOOK THAT-
OH.
FLAP~
WELL IT'S A STYLE!
IT'S A DRESS!
SLAM


YEAH...
I'M LIKING THIS LOOK...
NO.
THIS GUY!
WHY NOT?!
IT'S NOT REALLY...
ME...
WELL, IF SHE KNOWS AS MUCH ABOUT YOU AS YOU DO ABOUT HER-
YOU COULD BE ANYONE YOU WANT!
ZIIIP
YOU COULD BE LIKE:
"HI! I'M JIRO SAKANA!
AND I'M HERE TO RAVISH YOU~"
GEHEHAHA AHAHAAHA!!
THAT WOULD BE SO FUNNY!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE TAKING THIS...
SERIOUSLY.
SMAK
SMAK
SMAK-

COME ON, COME OOOON!!
I WAS JOKING!!
LOOK, I KNOW I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A DATE,
AND I KNOW I'M REALLY BAD AT THIS,
BUT I'M TRYING, ALRIGHT?!
I KNOW, I JUST WANT TO HELP!
BELIEVE ME, I APPRECIATE IT!
IT'S JUST, THIS WHOLE "ME BEING CRIPPLINGLY AFRAID OF GIRLS" THING IS STUPID AND HAS TO STOP!
BUT THIS IS MY PROBLEM, NOT YOURS.
I'M 22, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THIS MYSEL–
RING RING RING
IS THAT HER?
RING RING RING
AREN'T YOU GONNA ANSWER IT?
RING

RING RING
CLICK
UM...HELLO?
...JIRO?
UUAH... NO.
THIS IS HIS ROOMMATE. TAISEI TACHIBANA.
OH, WELL... IS JIRO AROUND?
JIRO? HE'S... UH...
HE'S...
ERRRR...
...RUBBING HIMSELF?
SMACK
OH! HE'S TAKING A SHOWER!!


CAN I TAKE A MESSAGE?
HEHEHE, SURE!
PLEASE TELL JIRO I HAVE TO MEET SOMEONE IN HARAJUKU THIS AFTERNOON.
SO I WAS THINKING WE COULD DO LUNCH THERE!
OOOOH! I LOVE HARAJUKU!
ME TOO!
I'LL MEET HIM ON THE BRIDGE BY THE SUBWAY STATION AT 12:00.
OK?
OK! I'LL TELL HIM!
THANKS!
GOODBYE!
BYE-BYE!
CALLING...
BOOP
HER NAME!!

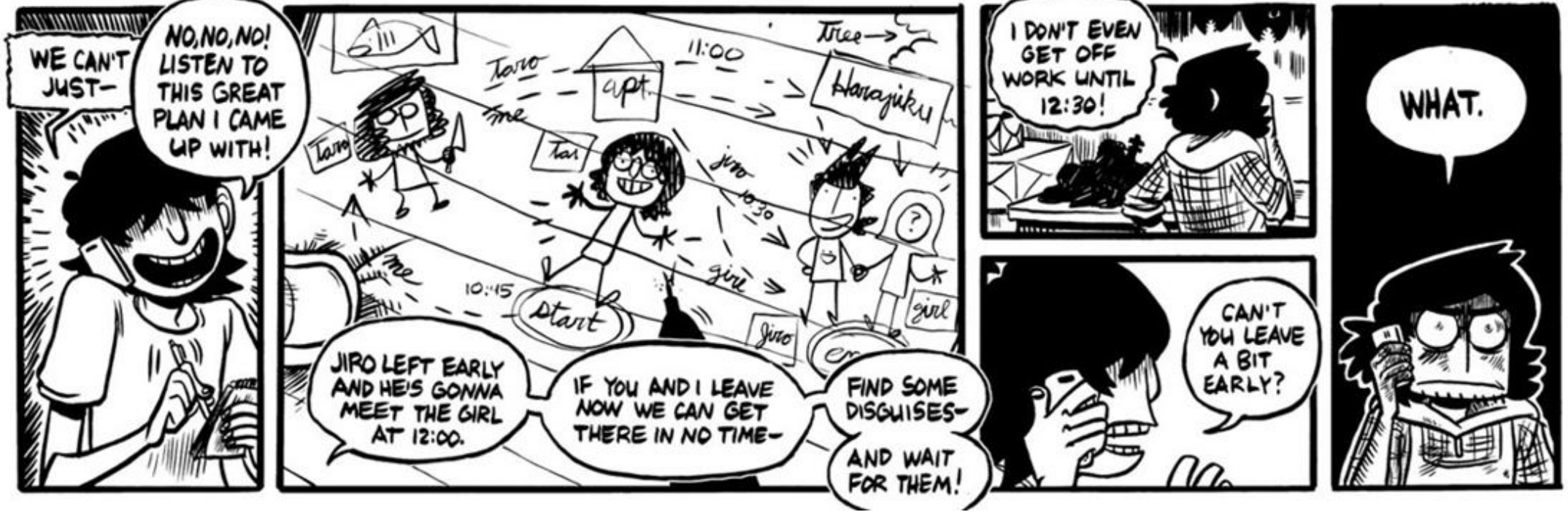
MAAAAN... HARAJUKU'S GOT SOME AWESOME SHOPPING.
YOU SURE I CAN'T COME?
YES, I'M SURE.
I'LL TRY TO BE HOME BY 3 SO WE CAN GO SHOPPING, OK?
OKAAAY-
SHE SOUNDED NICE.
...WHO DO YOU THINK SHE'S MEETING LATER?
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT IT.
I'M REALLY EXCITED FOR THIS, TAI.
I'M EXCITED FOR YOU!
COOL.
I JUST GOTTA SUCK IT UP-
AND BE A MAN.
...
ARE YOU SURE I CAN'T COME?

WELL, I'M GONNA HEAD OUT!
BUT IT'S ONLY 10:30!
I'M GONNA TAKE A WALK FIRST.
Y'KNOW... MENTALLY PREPARE.
OOOH, GOOD LUCK, JIRO!!
MY LITTLE BOY'S ALL GROWN UP!
THANKS, TAI.
PROMISE YOU'LL CALL ME IF YOU NEED HELP?
I'LL BE FINE, BUT OK.
SEE YOU LATER!
YEP!
SLAM
TARO TARO TARO TARO TARO TARO
BOOP BOOP BOOP BOOP BOOP BOOP BOOP

RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
UUUUUHh—
RING
RING

PICK UPPP...
TAD TAP
"CLICK"
TACHI-BANA?
WHAT'S UP?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME JIRO WAS DATING?!
WELL, YOU WERE DRUNK ALL LAST NIGHT!
AND BESIDES, IT'S AN INTEREST MEETING, NOT A DATE!
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?!
I DUNNO, THAT'S WHAT HE CALLED IT!
LOOK, I'M TRYING NOT TO FREAK OUT ABOUT IT, SO IF YOU COULD JUST–
AAAAAA AAAAA AAA

CALM DOWN, MAN!
JIRO'S 22 YEARS OLD, HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF!
HE'S BEEN SCARED OF GIRLS FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER!
THIS ALL SEEMS A LITTLE SUDDEN!
I MEAN, I TRUST THE GUY WITH MY LIFE - BUT WITH A GIRL?
HE'S NEVER BEEN ON A DATE BEFORE!
SOMEONE SHOULD BE THERE WITH HIM!
I AGREE, BUT WE CAN'T JUST BARGE IN ON HIS BUSINESS!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!
TAISEI VISION
me
tree
Taro
wall
Jiro
?
BUT MAYBE WE COULD BE THERE...
WITHOUT BEING ALL UP IN HIS BUSINESS?
Y'KNOW... DISCREET-LIKE.
YOU MEAN SPY ON HIM?
NOOOO, I MEAN CHAPERONE!
...SECRETLY!

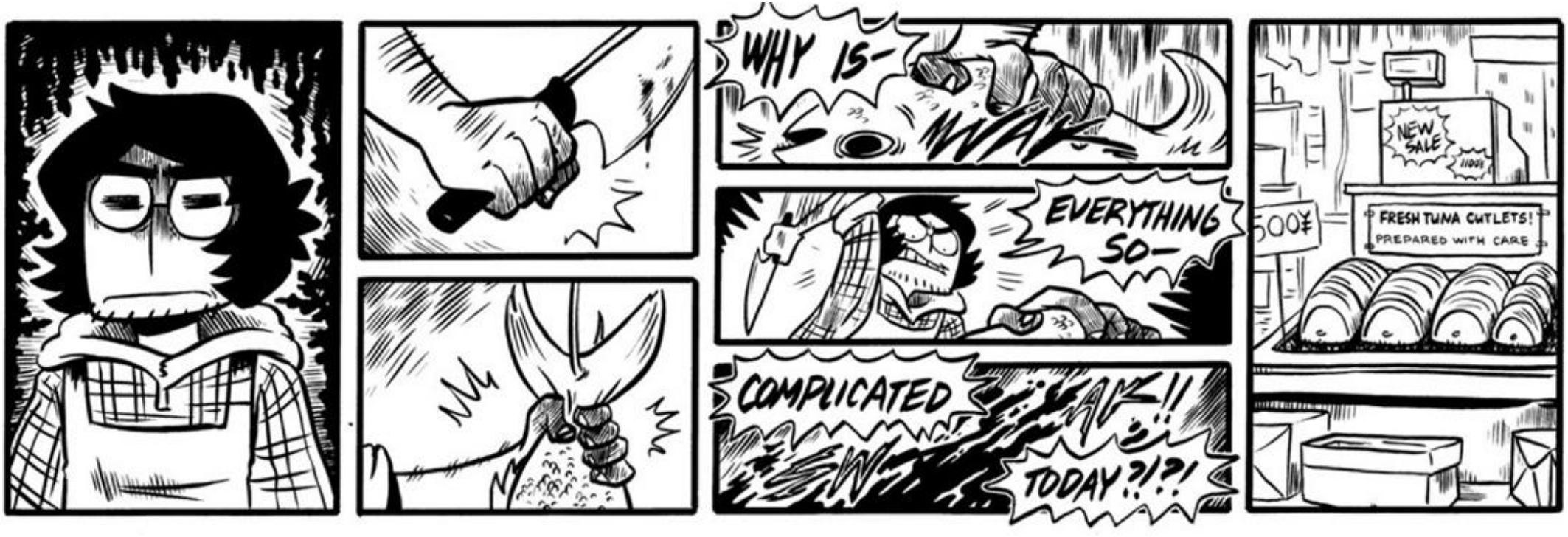

WE CAN'T JUST–
NO, NO, NO! LISTEN TO THIS GREAT PLAN I CAME UP WITH!
Taro
apt.
11:00
Tree→
Harajuku
Taro time
Taro
jiro 10:30
me
10:15
start
girl
Jiro
girl
JIRO LEFT EARLY AND HE'S GONNA MEET THE GIRL AT 12:00.
IF YOU AND I LEAVE NOW WE CAN GET THERE IN NO TIME–
FIND SOME DISGUISES–
AND WAIT FOR THEM!
I DON'T EVEN GET OFF WORK UNTIL 12:30!
CAN'T YOU LEAVE A BIT EARLY?
WHAT.

LISTEN, MAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF SHIP THEY RUN AT THAT SCOOTER BUSINESS OF YOURS...
BUT THIS JOB MEANS A LOT TO ME AND I'M NOT JUST GONNA WALK OUT!!
OK, OK! I KNOW YOU LOVE YOUR JOB!!
BUT YOU'VE NEVER TAKEN A DAY OFF, AND JIRO IS YOUR ONLY BROTHER!!
MFFuc-k
CAN'T YOU JUST ASK YOUR UNCLE?
WHAT-TH...
HUHH,
EXPLAIN THE SITUATION?
WH-
HEY!!
...
I'M SURE YOUR COWORKERS WOULD BE FINE FOR AN HOUR OR TWO,
RIGHT?

OK, ALRIGHT-
COME MEET ME AT THE STALL.
I'LL TRY TO FINISH UP WHAT I'M DOING SO I CAN GO ASK MY UNCLE IF I CAN LEAVE.
DUDE, I'M ALREADY OUT THE DOOR!!
I'LL BE THERE AS QUICK AS I CAN-
OUR BIKES!!
NOT AGAIN!!
...WALK.....
I'M GONNA KILL SOME-BODY!!!

OK, I'LL SEE YOU IN A FEW.
CLICK
CHECKING OUT EARLY??
I'D EXPECT THIS KIND OF SLACKER ATTITUDE FROM YOUR BROTHER,
BUT NOT FROM YOU!
I'M DISSAPPOINTED, TARO.
WH-
WEREN'T YOU JUST OUT FRONT?
HOW'D YOU GET BACK HERE SO QUICK?
. . .
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

C'MON, YUUDAI.
I JUST WANNA LEAVE A LITTLE EARLY.
HAH! NO WAY!!
WHAT?!
DIDN'T YOU TAKE LIKE... A MONTH-LONG VACATION LAST YEAR?
A VACATION?!?!
THAT WASN'T A VACATION!!!
THAT WAS AFTER MY ACCIDENT!!!
YOU MEAN THAT LITTLE SCRATCH ON YOUR FACE?!
...
YEAH.
I REALLY DOUBT THAT NEEDED A WHOLE MONTH TO HEAL.
ALL I WANT IS AN HOUR AND A HALF!!
IS THAT TOO MUCH TO-
... ASK?


WHY IS-
EVERYTHING SO-
COMPLICATED
TODAY?!?!
NEW SALE
110¥!
500¥
FRESH TUNA CUTLETS!
PREPARED WITH CARE

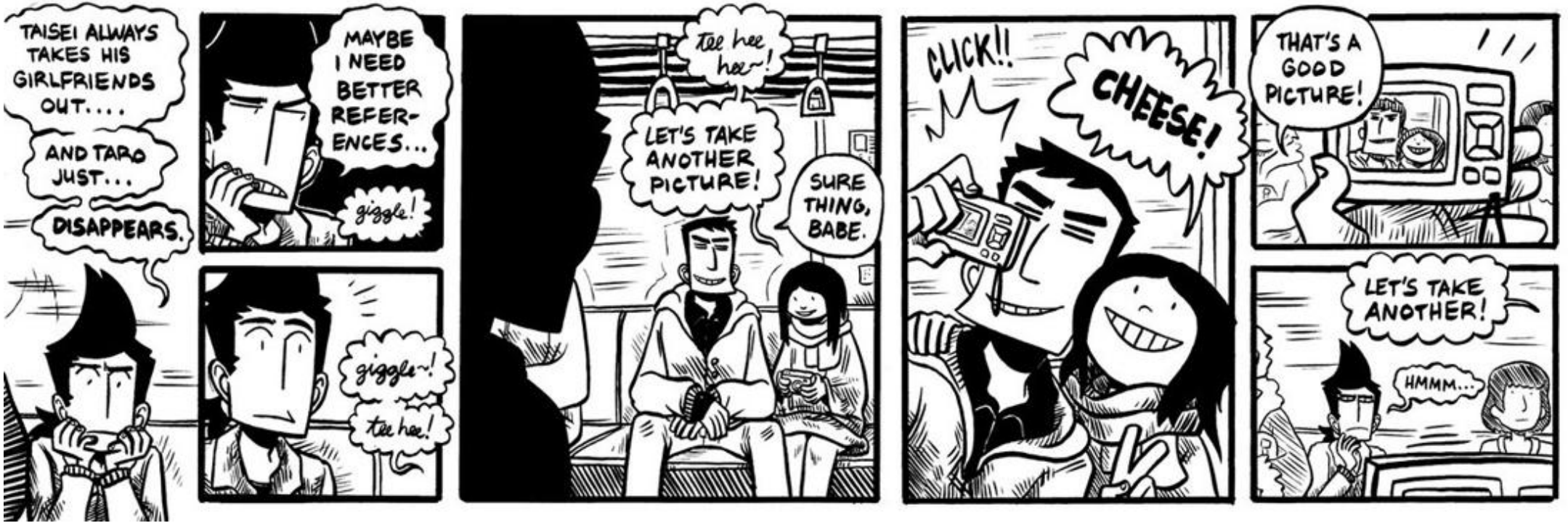
NAME: YUUDAI TANAKA
DOB: NOVEMBER 15
AGE: 25

MEAN TO
EVERYONE.

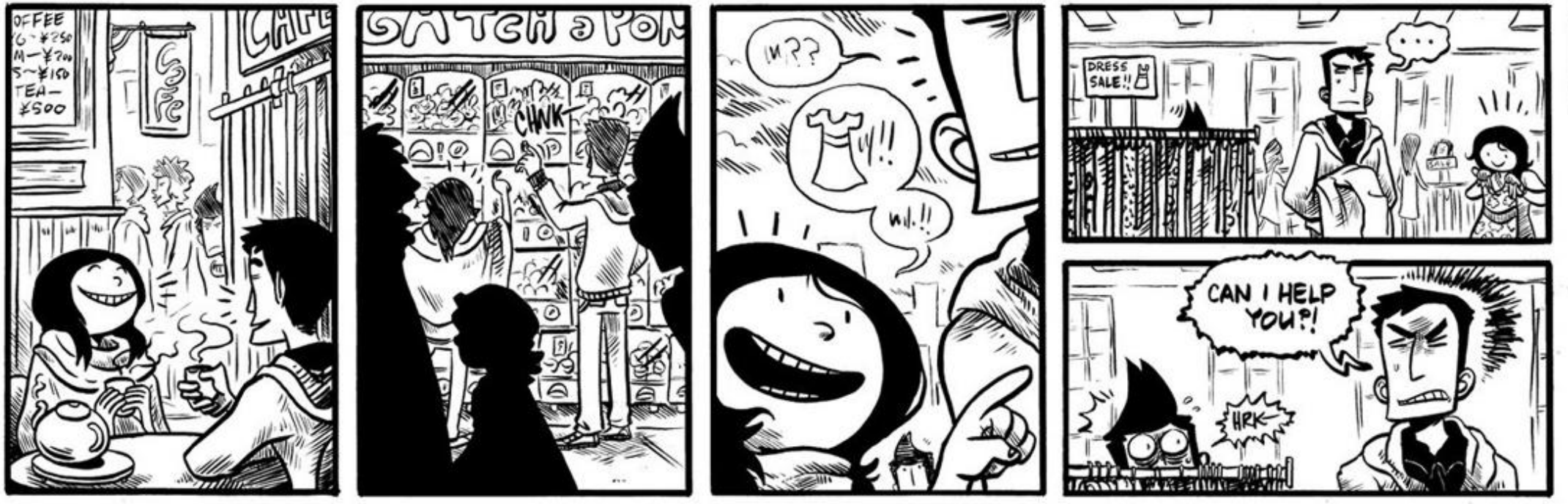
CHAPTER: IV

SIIIIGH~~

UHH... HEY... CASH REGISTER GIRL.
HOW'S IT GOING?
IT'S GOING GREAT, JIRO!
AHA...COOL.
I HEARD SOME IDIOT DOESN'T KNOW YOUR NAME!
HE HE HE THAT'S SILLY!
EVERYBODY KNOWS MY NAME IS-
...!!
?
GNAK


TAISEI ALWAYS TAKES HIS GIRLFRIENDS OUT....
AND TARO JUST...
DISAPPEARS.
MAYBE I NEED BETTER REFER-ENCES...
giggle!
giggle~!
tee hee!
tee hee, hee~!
LET'S TAKE ANOTHER PICTURE!
SURE THING, BABE.
CLICK!!
CHEESE!
THAT'S A GOOD PICTURE!
LET'S TAKE ANOTHER!
HMMM...

SHIBUYA
STATION >>>
BING
WON'T THIS BE FUN, RYO?
A WHOLE DAY OF SHOPPING IN SHIBUYA!
I WANT MY PICTURE IN FRONT OF THE HACHIKO STATUE, OK?
ANYTHING YOU WANT, BABY.
CLICK!!
CHEESE!
THAT'S A GOOD ONE!
YOU LOOK GREAT!
Bopp Bopp
HMM-
?
ZIP


COFFEE
L~¥250
M~¥200
S~¥150
TEA~
¥500
CAFE
Coffee
GATCHAPON
CHWK
M??
wl.!!
DRESS SALE!!
CAN I HELP YOU?!
HRK

WHAT'S YOUR DEAL, MAN?!
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING US SINCE THE SUBWAY!
YOU LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?!
N-NO!!
I-I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE-
I JUST HAVE T-THIS THING TODAY AND-
AND YOU LOOKED LIKE A GOOD BOYFRIEND AND I JUST...
WANTED TO-
... WATCH AND-
...
UH... THAT CAME OUT WRONG...
ARE YOU COMING ONTO ME?!
NO!
LISTEN. I'M GOING ON MY FIRST DATE.
WITH THIS GIRL THAT I LIKE...
HUH...
AND I JUST... THOUGHT I COULD USE A FEW POINTERS.
I'M REALLY BAD AT THIS...
RYO? WHO'S THIS?
THE SUBWAY GUY.
THE STALKER?
OH NO! TURNS OUT HE'S JUST KIND OF A LOSER!

I GUESS I COULD GIVE YOU SOME TIPS...
BUT YOU KIND OF CREEP ME OUT...
UGHHH...
I DON'T HAVE ANY-MORE TIME!
BEEP
11:29
BEEP
WELL, JUST REMEMBER THAT GIRLS LIKE CONFIDENT GUYS!
JUST BE YOURSELF!
SHOW HER YOUR BEST TRAITS!
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY BEST TRAITS ARE!
OK... HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF TO SOMEONE?
UH... MY NAME'S JIRO SAKANA, I'M 22, AND I WORK IN A FISH MARKET?
. . . . . .
PAT
PAT
GOOD LUCK, BRO.

NNGH—
EXCU—
HRK-
UH—
EXCUSE ME—
INNER MARKET
RRGH-
I'M TOO BIG FOR THIS PLACE!!
SAKANAS
TMP TMP
SO, EVEN THOUGH SOME OF OUR STOCK IS...
SUBPAR TODAY...
OUR OCTOPUS IS QUITE GOOD.
OH!
EXCUSE ME!
HI!
AND ALSO—
UM...
ONE MOMENT, SI-
-IR
HELLO!!

CAN I... UH... HELP YOU, SIR?
OH YES! I'M LOOKING FOR TARO SAKANA?
OH. TARO.
TACHIBANA!
GREAT, I JUST FINISHED UP!
HI, TARO!
FWAP
I GOT HERE AS QUICK AS I COULD!
I'LL GO ASK MY UNCLE IF I CAN LEAVE.
YOU PEOPLE MAKE ME SICK.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

SO WHERE IS YOUR UNCLE?
ISN'T HE USUALLY IN THE BACK WITH YOU?
DIDN'T WE TELL YOU?
SAKANA'S
SUSHI
VISIT US IN THE INNER MARKET TOO!
HE OPENED A SUSHI STALL IN THE OUTER MARKET LAST MONTH!
HE'S BEEN WORKING THERE WITH A FEW OF OUR COWORKERS HE BROUGHT FROM THE STALL.
LIKE SHIGERU!
THAT DUDE WHO LIVES IN THE APARTMENT ABOVE US?
WITH THE...
FINGERS?
YEAH, HIM.
I'M HEADING OVER.
WILL YOU BE OK WAITING HERE?
OF COURSE! I'LL BE PERFECTLY FINE!
SALE

SAKANA'S SUSHI
PAP
PAP
PAP
HELLO?
UNCLE REN?
FWAP~
SHIGERU?
HEΔO!!
ΔXOELCOM OO SAKOΔA!!
PLOΔOB SIT!!
UUUUHH...OK...
IS REN SAKANA HERE?
I'M HIS NEPHEW.
XXXX?
NΔFBW?
HIS NEPHEW.
OΔX!
MΔNBW!
MENU

HBΔB MΔNBW!!
TΔBK TIMBE LOOK!
UHH....
PAT
PAT
PAT
LISTEN...YOU MUST BE NEW.
I'M—
ΔEXO!
NEW!!
SPECIALS!
VBΔY NEW!
JOST TODBY!!
GOOD PRBΔCE!
SHIGERU!!!!
SBBT!!

MOMENTS AGO...
HMMMM
HRMMM
HMM
HMMMMM
HMMM...
ROLL
DMM
HMMMM
HM—
HMMM
SHIGERU!!

YEAH?
BRO, I GOTTA FIND MY UH-
OXXΔBΔBB OXXXXB!!!
AND I HA-
MAN
HEY
YO
OXX BΔ!!
WHO THE HELL IS THIS GUY?!
MAENB-
NEW XBΔ!!
DID YOU HEAR ME CALLING?!
XXO !!!O!!!
STOP.
WHAT'VE I TOLD'JA BOUT YELLIN' N' SCREAMN'?
'AT'S HOW PEOPLE LOSE FING'RS.

THIS HERE'S JAN.
YER UNCLE HIRED 'IM OFFA SOME WURK EXCHANGE PROGRAM.
BAP
JAN, THIS'S TARO SAKANA.
TØRO...
HE'S REN'S NEPHEW.
I, UH... ALREADY TRIED THE NEPHEW THING.
BUT I DON'T THINK HE UNDERSTOOD ME...
YEAH, SEE... HE DON'T SPEAK TOO MUCH JAPANESE...
HE'S FROM GERM'NY OR SUMTHIN' ...
AND YER UNCLE'S MADE IT MY JOB T'LOOK AFTER 'IM.
?
WAVE~
SO I TAUGHT HIM ALL THE WORDS ON THE MENU!
MENU
THAT'S ALL HE NEEDS, RIGHT?
RIGHT ...

SO WHAT CAN I DO YA FOR, BUD?
I NEED TO ASK MY UNCLE IF I CAN LEAVE EARLY.
WHY?
JIRO'S GOING ON A DATE AND I NEED TO BE THERE.
YEAH? 'BOUT TIME.
SWEEP SWEEP
SO IS REN AROUND?
SURE, BUT YOU WON'T WANNA SEE 'IM.
WHY NOT?
HE'S OUT BACK.
TALKIN' WIT 'IS SON.
WHY'S HE HERE ?!
SAME REASON AS ALWAYS.
LOOKIN' FER MONEY.

UUGHH...
MAYBE THIS ISN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA...
TOO LATE, I'M GOIN' T'GET 'IM.
WAIT, WHAT?!
YER BRUTHER'S KIND OF A SPAZ.
HE'S GONNA NEED YER HELP.
BENEVOLENCE
SO YOU SHUD WORRY 'BOUT HIM, NOT YER COUSIN.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
SHUR AM.
A'IGHT, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
WATCH TH' KID FER ME, OK?
WHAT KI-
OH SHIT-

F#@&! SLACKERS.
NO F#@&! DEDICATION TO THIS F#@&! JOB—
I'M THE ONE WHO—
TAK
TAK
SALE
SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HRK
WH-WHAT—
N-NO CUSTOMERS BEHIND THE COUNTER!!
SORRY, DUDE! MY NAME'S TAISEI TACHIBANA! WHAT'S YOURS?
TANAKA.
SALE
IS THAT YOUR SURNAME??
COOL!
WHAT'S YOUR GIVEN NAME?

IS YOUR NAME JOJI?
RYU?
ITOU?
LISTEN. THERE BETTER BE A REALLY GOOD REASON FOR YOU TO BE HERE RIGHT NOW.
DIDN'T TARO TELL YOU?
JIRO'S GOING ON A DATE!
JIRO'S ....
SNRK
HE'S ...
AHA HA~
AAHAHAH

SO WE'RE GONNA KEEP AN EYE ON HIM TODAY!
HA AHAHAA
I'D KILL TO SEE THAT!
OH!
YOU SHOULD COME TOO!!
AHRGHHGHHKLGH...
WHAT?!
I'VE GOT TO WORK DOUBLE TO COVER TARO'S TRAITOR ASS!
WHY WOULD I GO WITH YOU?!
WELL!
JUDGING BY MR. SAKANA'S PERSONALITY, HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS NEPHEWS...
AND HIS SEEMINGLY SHORT-STAFFED BUSINESS TO KEEP THE APPEARANCE OF A QUAINT FAMILY-RUN OPERATION...
I'D SAY HE'S LIKELY TO GIVE TARO THE DAY OFF AND YOU AS WELL, RATHER THAN RISK HIM WORKING IN A COMPROMISED MINDSET AND YOU IN AN OVERWORKED ENVIRONMENT!
IT'S SIMPLE BUSINESS THEORY!!

OK...ALL THAT GIBBERISH ASIDE...
WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT JIRO?
YOU'RE HIS COWORKER!!
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT HIM?!
IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG...
HE COULD BE DEVASTATED.
Mura
Ever since Jiro got totally devastated he can't sell anything!!
You're totally the best salesman, Yuudai.
HMM...
I'm an asshole.
DEVASTATED, YOU SAY?

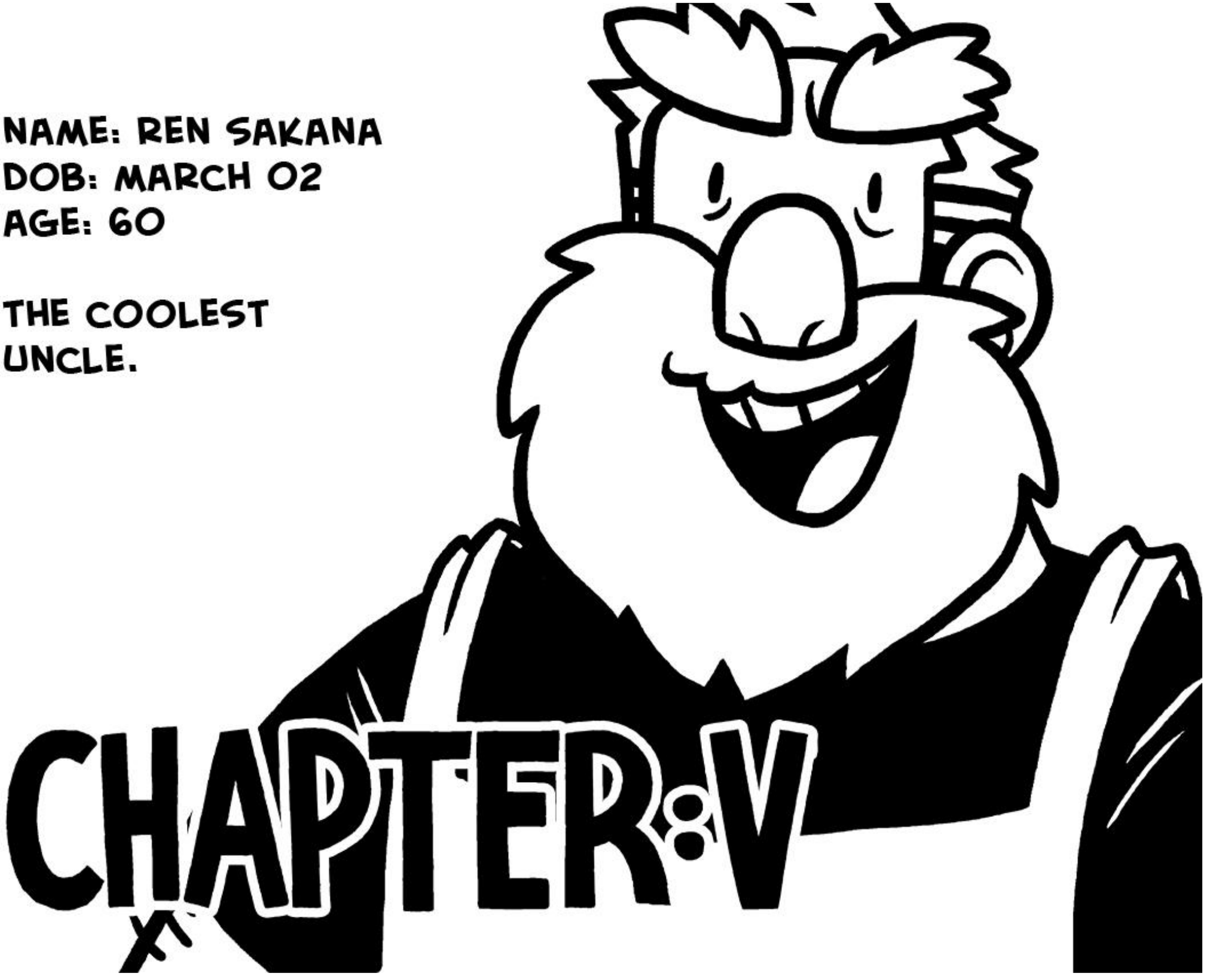
I WOULDN'T BE HERE IF IT WASN'T A PROBLEM!
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THIS MONTH!
HOW MUCH MORE DO YOU NEED?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT!
I HAVE THIS UNDER CONTROL!
JUST THINK ABOUT WHAT I'M OFFERING!
TMP TMP TMP
YOU'RE NOT OFFERING, YOU'RE DEMANDING!!
AND I'M NOT GIVING YOU THE STA—
AHEM—
MR. SAKANA?
AM I INTERRUPTIN' ANYTHING?
AH, SHIGERU!
NOT AT ALL, M'BOY!
WE WERE DONE TALKING.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YA, BOY?
HOW'S EVERYTHING HOLDIN' UP AT THE STALL?
FINE- HERKKK.
TARO'S HERE T'SEE YA, SIR.
EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT!
GENJI, LET'S GO SEE YOUR COUSIN!
uuh...
'BOUT TIME YOU TWO GOT CAUGHT UP!
HAW HAW HAW!
YES FATHER.
WATCH YOURSELF, WATANABE.
NICE T'SEE YA TOO, GENJI.

SEEMS LIKE WE'RE GETTING LOTS OF VISITORS TODAY!
SURE 'NUFF. IT'S BEEN A REAL BUSY DAY.
YOU DIDN'T LEAVE JAN ALONE DID YOU??
NAW, SIR. TARO'S WITH 'IM.
HAW HAW HAW!
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO INTRODUCE HIM TO EVERY-BODY!!
WE'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH THE SUSHI STALL I HAVEN'T SEEN THOSE THREE IN A WHILE!
TARO SEEMED FINE, SIR.
OF COURSE, HAW HAW!
YKNOW I SHOULD PROBABLY CHECK IN ON THEM.
MAKE SURE YUNDAI HASN'T GONE OFF THE DEEP END!
HAW HAW HAW HAW
HMM.

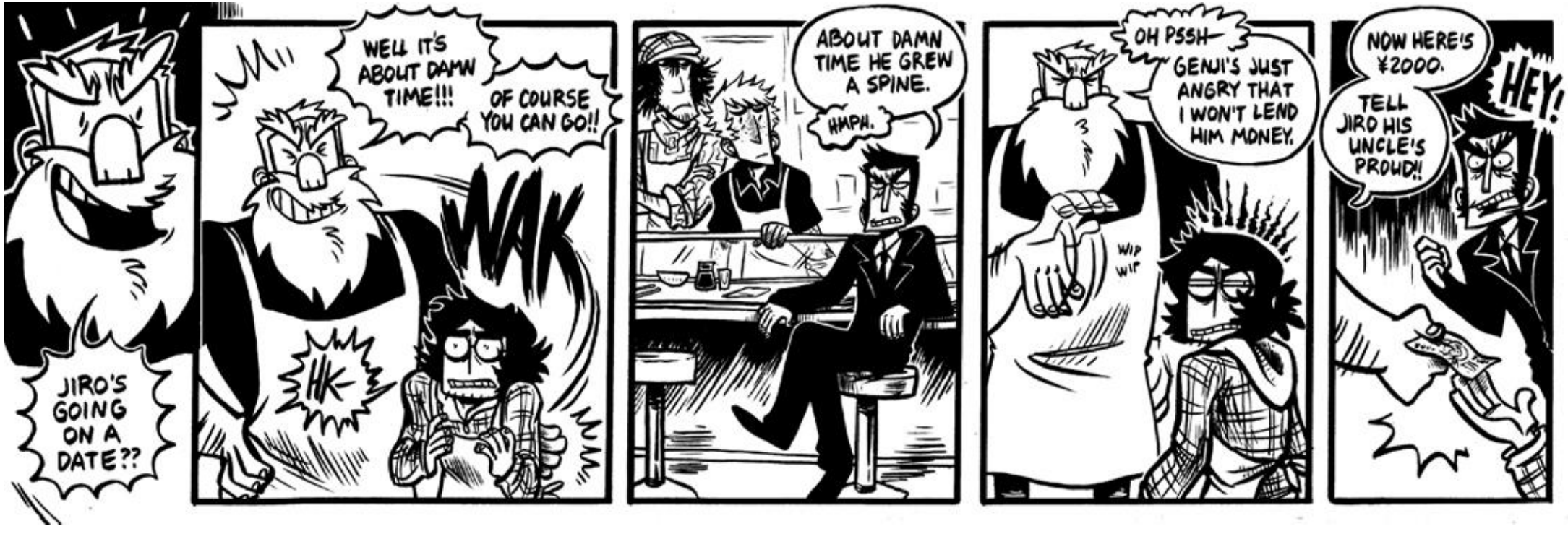
NAME: REN SAKANA
DOB: MARCH 02
AGE: 60

THE COOLEST
UNCLE.

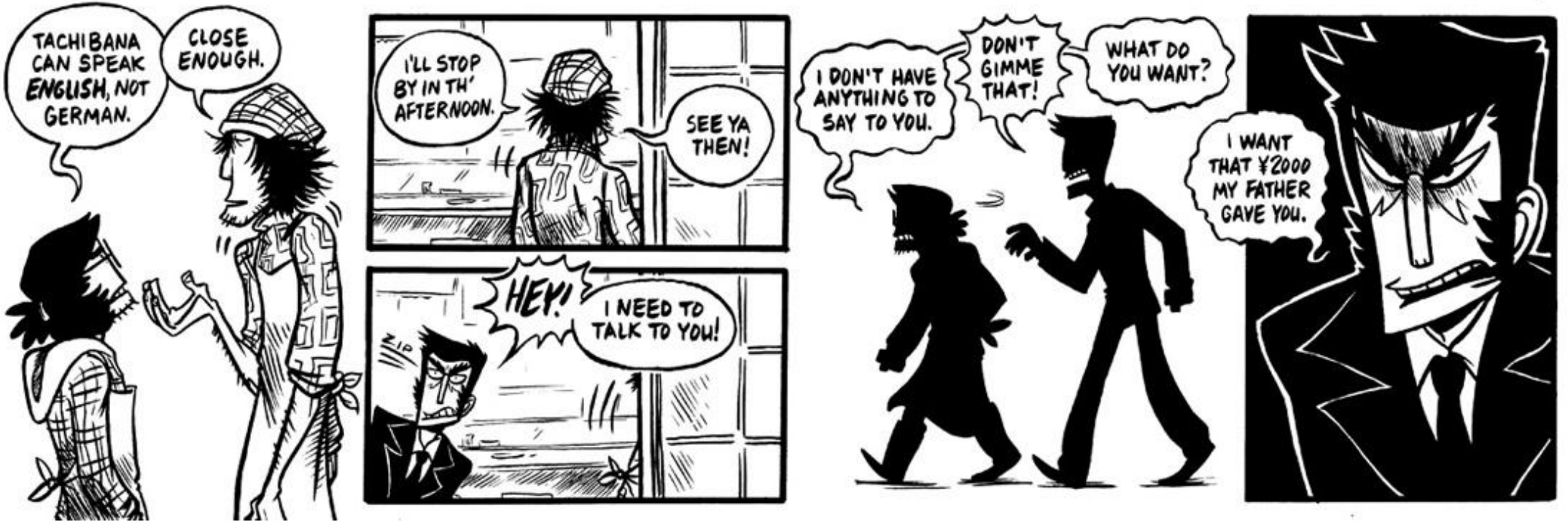


CHAPTER:V

TA-ROH.
TAROH.
TAAA-ROOOH.
TARR-OH.
TARO!!!
YEAH!!
TARO!!
YEA-OH.
HOW'S MY FAVORITE NEPHEW?
BWA HAW HAW!
AHAH~ HELLO, UNCLE REN!
...GENJI.
HELLO, YOU DISGRACEFUL LITTLE-
AHEM-
FAVORITE COUSIN.


JIRO'S GOING ON A DATE??
WELL IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME!!!
OF COURSE YOU CAN GO!!
WAK
HK
MM
ABOUT DAMN TIME HE GREW A SPINE.
HMPH.
OH PSSH—
GENJI'S JUST ANGRY THAT I WON'T LEND HIM MONEY.
WIP WIP
NOW HERE'S ¥2000.
TELL JIRO HIS UNCLE'S PROUD!!
HEY!

YOU CAN TELL YUUDAI TO GO HOME TOO.
CAN'T HAVE HIM WORKING BY HIMSELF.
YOU KNOW HOW HE GETS ...
I'LL CLEAN UP THE STALL B'FOR I LEAVE FER TH' DAY.
THANK YOU BOTH!
VISIT US IN THE INNER
YOUR AUNT'S MAKING DINNER ON WEDNESDAY.
YOU BOYS ARE INVITED.
WE'LL BE THERE.
HEY, YOU FREE T'MORRER?
YEAH, WHAT'S UP?
I DUNNO, MAN.
I BEEN SEEIN' SUM SHADY LOOKIN' GUYS ROUND 'ERE LATELY.
MIGHT BE NUTHIN'..
BUT, Y'KNOW ...
PLUS, I WANTED T'INTRODUCE JAN T'THAT BIG DOOFY KID YA'LL KEEP AS A PET.
..OUR ROOM-MATE?
YEAH!


TACHIBANA CAN SPEAK ENGLISH, NOT GERMAN.
CLOSE ENOUGH.
I'LL STOP BY IN TH' AFTERNOON.
SEE YA THEN!
ZIP
HEY!
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO YOU.
DON'T GIMME THAT!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT THAT ¥2000 MY FATHER GAVE YOU.

YOUR FATHER GAVE THIS MONEY TO ME!
RIGHT! MY FATHER, NOT YOURS!
HE'S JUST TRYING TO GET BACK AT ME BY GIVING IT TO YOU!
MAYBE IF YOU DIDN'T OBSSESSIVELY GAMBLE ALL YOUR MONEY AWAY, HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO!
I DON'T GAMBLE OBSSESSIVELY!
OK THEN, YOU JUST HAVE A GAMBLING PROBLEM!!
I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM EITHER!!
WHAT WOULD YOU SPEND THIS MONEY ON?
UH...
JUST...
JUST, UH-
YOU KNOW,
JUST GIVE ME THE MONEY..

HOW MUCH DEBT ARE YOU IN?
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
BUT IT'S JUST ¥2000!
HEY!!
I DID YOU A FAVOR WHEN YOU WERE IN TROUBLE!
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
YEAH, AND IT WAS A REALLY BIG FAVOR.
IS LORDING THINGS OVER MY HEAD, LIKE, A HOBBY OF YOURS?!
'CUZ IF YOU WEREN'T MY COUSIN, I'D BE KICKING YOUR ASS.
KRK
AHAHA—
B-BUT I AM YOUR COUSIN!
SO, YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME!

YOU CAN'T HURT EACH OTHER!
YOU'RE COUSINS!!
HYPR
MAN
YOU CAN'T KILL HIM!!
HE'S OUR COUSIN!!
YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME!
I'M YOUR COUSIN!

SO ABOUT THAT ¥2000...
HOWE
POW!!!
HUK
YOU'RE AN ASSHOLE, GENJI.
COUGH~ KUH Kuh~
OH YEAH?! WELL YOU'RE A PSYCHOPATH!
AND YOUR HAIR MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A DUMPY GIRL!!!

I BETTER NOT SEE YOU AROUND HERE FOR A WHILE!!
I'LL COME HERE WHENEVER I WANT!!!

AND I~...
!!!

I...
UH...

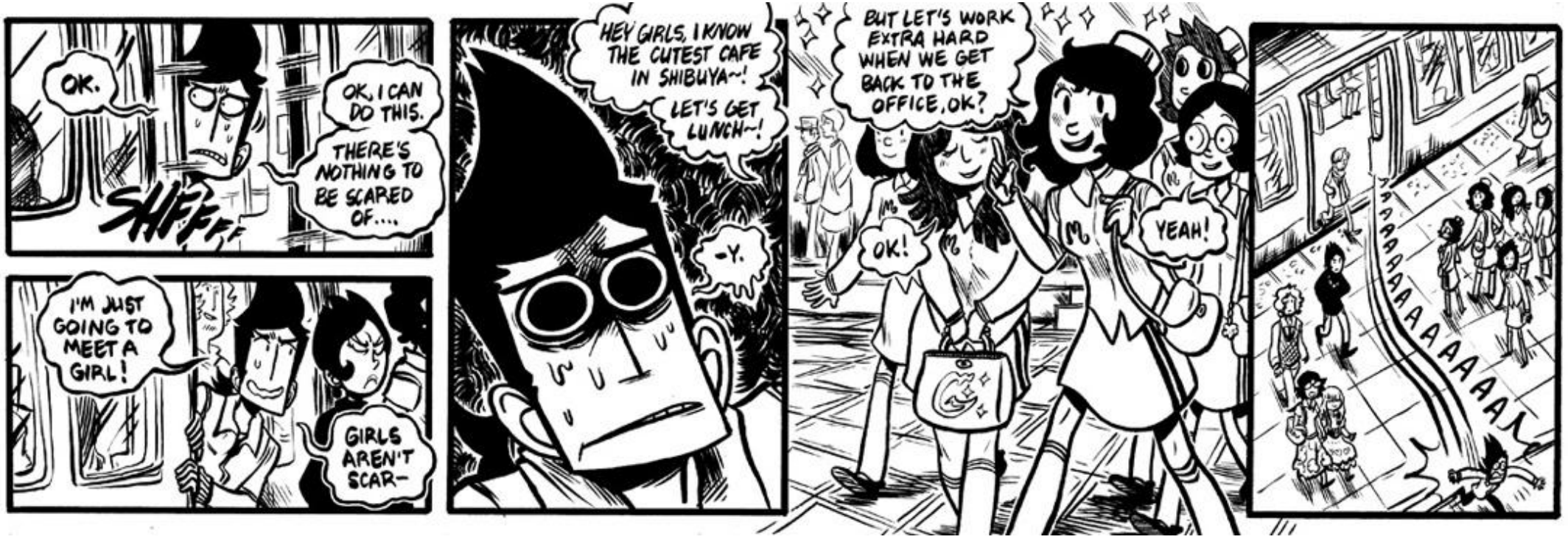
I'M SORRY.

STOMP
STOMP
SABURO?
NO.
SHIRO?
NO.
GORO?
NO!!
STOMP
STOMP
TAISEI, LET'S GO.
YUUDAI, YOU CAN LEAVE.
STOMP
STOMP
YOUR NAME'S YUUDAI??
I CAN GO?
THAT'S SUCH A COOL NAME!!
NOW YOU CAN COME WITH US!!
WHAT.

YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE JIRO!!
?
TH- PSSSHH! THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
HE'S--- OK---
AND BESIDES! YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!!
I'M FREE FOR THE DAY! I'LL GO WHEREVER I WANT!
YEAH! DON'T BE SUCH A BULLY, TARO!
YUUDAI'S PART OF THE TEAM!
HHHU?!
TEAM JIRO!!
EEEYERGHHGHGH
TO THE TRAIN STATION!!
YEEAHH HHH!!!
YOU'RE SURE YOU WANNA COME?

OK, SO...
TSUKIJI-SHIJŌ
GINZA
WE'LL TAKE THE TOEI ŌEDO LINE FROM HERE-
YOYOGI
HARAJUKU
-TO YOYOGI.
THEN TAKE THE JR LINE TO HARAJUKU.
I CAN'T AFFORD THAT FARE!
I NEED TO GET HOME AFTER THIS!
I'LL SPOT YOU!
C'MON LET'S PICK UP THE PACE, GUYS!!
JIRO'S WAITING!!
SO...THIS GUY IS LIKE..... JIRO'S BOYFRIEND?
HIS BEST FRIEND!!
HUH.
BUT HE'S STILL...
...Y'KNOW...
RIGHT?
WHAT?
GAY?
YEAH...
I DUNNO, MAN.
HE'S JUST KIND OF...
TAISEI.

TSUKIJI-SHIJŌ STATION!
NOW LEAVING TSUKIJI-SHIJŌ STATION!
NEXT STOP—
STAFF
—HARAJUKU STATION.


OK.
SHIFFFF
OK, I CAN DO THIS.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF....
I'M JUST GOING TO MEET A GIRL!
GIRLS AREN'T SCAR-
HEY GIRLS, I KNOW THE CUTEST CAFE IN SHIBUYA~!
LET'S GET LUNCH~!
-Y.
BUT LET'S WORK EXTRA HARD WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE OFFICE, OK?
OK!
YEAH!
AAAAAAAAAAAA

HFF HFF
THIS IS CRAZY!!
THERE HAS TO BE A REASON WHY I'M SCARED OF GIRLS!
I DON'T REMEMBER ANY REALLY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES
....
EXCEPT....
DO YOU HAVE ANY TUNA?
AAAAAAAA
DRP.
MAYBE LAST YEAR WHEN I DROPPED THE ¥50000 TUNA...
NAH... TOO RECENT.
CALL THE NURSE!
YUKI FELL DOWN THE STAIRS!!
ICB
BE COOL.
THERE WAS THAT BUSINESS WITH YUKI IN JUNIOR HIGH...
OR MAYBE... IN PRESCHOOL WHEN....
WHEN...
OH GOD.

17 YEARS AGO
NYEEOW!!
BOOM!!
HYPWAMAN FIGHTS THE DINOSAW!
RAAH!!
PSSH!!!
HEY JIWO! CHIE FROM CLASS B WANTSTA SEE YOU!!
RAAA-
BAF
CHIE?
WHY?
CUZ, SHE SAYS YOR HER BOYFWEND NOW!
ME?!
I'VE NEVA BEEN A BOYFWEND!
IS IT HARD?
YOU GOTTA ASK HUR!
SHE'S WAITIN' FOR YOU ON DA STAIWS!

HI, CHIE!
JIWO!
DAISUKE SAYS I'M YUR BOYFWEND NOW.
UH-HUH!
I-I DUNNO HOW T'BE A BOYFWEND THO!
WHAT SHUD I DO?
WELL, FIRST YOU GOTTA CLOSE YUR EYES!
WHY'S THAT?
SO YOU WON'T SEE THIS!!!
P-
OW
BOYFWEND!!
KIHIHIHI HI HI HI HI HI!!
AAAAAAAA!!

BOYFWEND!!
AAAAAAAA
PAF!
BOYFWEND!!
AAAAAAAA
BFF
BOYFWEND!!
AAA
AAAAA
PLOOP
AAAAAA
BOY-CHOMP
AAA

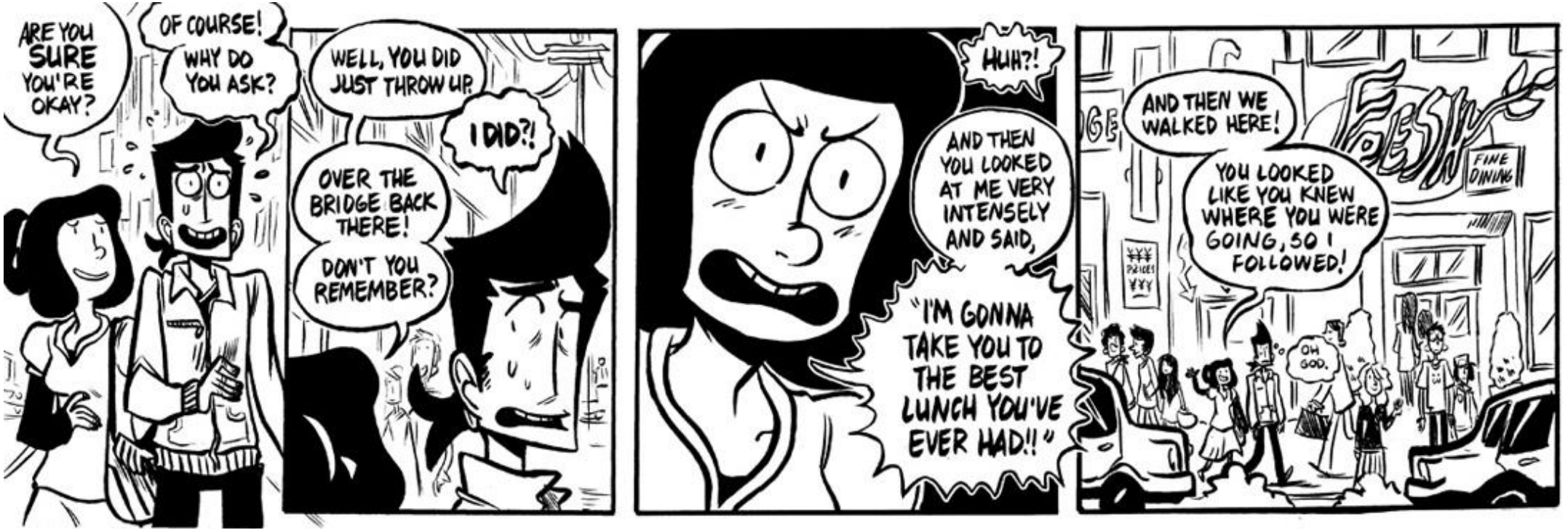
AA
AA
AA
AA
AA
AA
AA
AA
AA
AA

PANT
PANT
OH GOD.
?
THIS GUY
THAT MUST BE IT!!
THAT'S—
CLUTCH

JIRO?
ARE YOU OKAY?

uhgk—
uh—
uh ye—
yes.

BLARF.

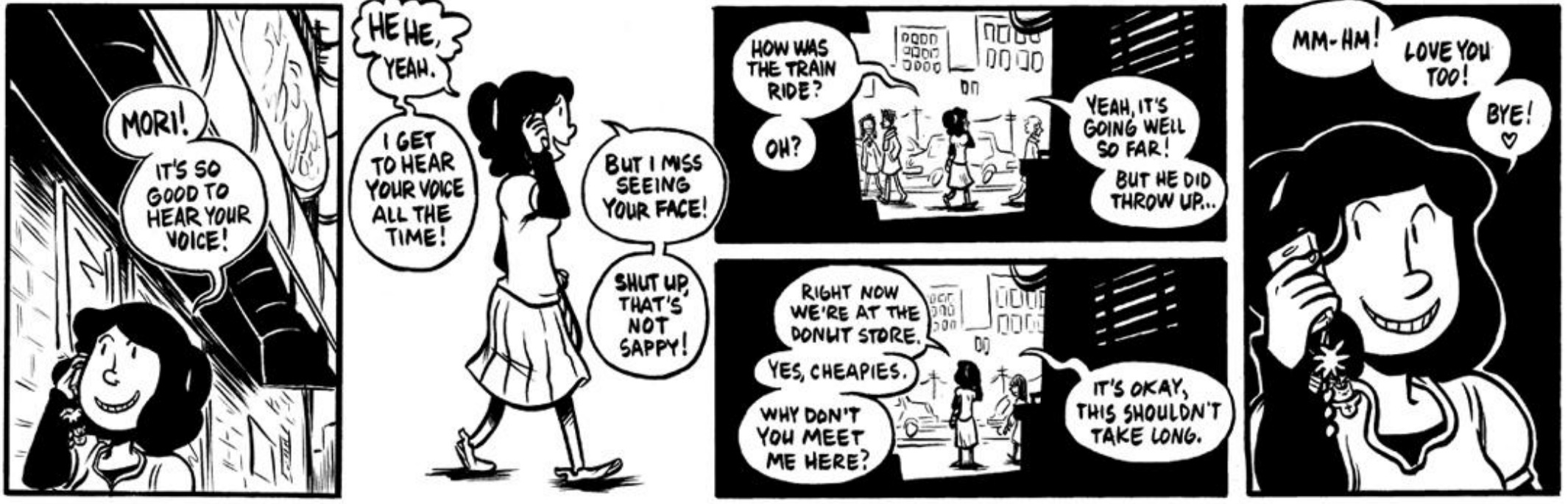

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
OF COURSE! WHY DO YOU ASK?
WELL, YOU DID JUST THROW UP.
I DID?!
OVER THE BRIDGE BACK THERE!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
HUH?!
AND THEN YOU LOOKED AT ME VERY INTENSELY AND SAID,
"I'M GONNA TAKE YOU TO THE BEST LUNCH YOU'VE EVER HAD!!"
AND THEN WE WALKED HERE!
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU KNEW WHERE YOU WERE GOING, SO I FOLLOWED!
FRESH
FINE DINING
¥¥ PRICES ¥¥¥
OH GOD.

OH GOD, WE'RE IN THE MOST EXPENSIVE PART OF TOWN!!
EAT IN
WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE?!
DID I BLACK OUT?!?
SO, JIRO!
OUH-UH.. YES, UM... YES?
DO YOU COME TO HARAJUKU OFTEN?
IT WON'T FIT ME, SO CAN YOU TRY IT ON?
PLEEEASE?
S-SURE.
I USUALLY COME WITH MY ROOMMATE ...
HE KNOWS THE AREA A LOT BETTER THAN ME!
IN FACT, HE SAID THERE WAS A GREAT PLACE TO EAT...
ER..
SUPE
IN THIS, UH GENERAL AREA!
OH SUPER!
ENU
I DON'T THINK I SAID THAT...

THERE'S GOTTA BE A COFFEE SHOP OR SOMETHING AROUND HERE!
THOSE ARE PRETTY CHEAP—
RIGHT?
NO FOOT
SHOES
SALE
SHOULD I OFFER TO PAY FOR HER LUNCH??
IS THAT TOO FORWARD ??
IS THAT CREEPY?
STORE MY DUCK
IS THERE ANYTHING HERE I CAN AFFORD?
Pretty Cafe
Cheapies DONUTS
HEY LOOK! A CHEAPIES!
SALVATION

ARE YOU UP FOR SOME DONUTS?
HEE HEE~ SURE!
HOLY CRAP.
HOLY CRAP GUYS!!
HE'S GOING TO CHEAPIES!!!
...I LIKE THEIR DONUTS.
YEAH, WHAT'S WRONG WITH CHEAPIES?
JIRO'S NOT MADE OF CASH.
CHEAPIES IS THE HOTTEST NEW DATE SPOT IN HARAJUKU!
DOES HE KNOW THAT?!
THIS IS SO NICE!
HEY BABY.
WHAT'S UP~
TEE HEE~
BOOBEAR~
MY FRIENDS ALL THINK YOU'RE SOO GREAT!
I LIKE YOUR HAIR
COOL!
I LOVE YOU!
SNUGGLE PUMPKIN
HONEY BABY SWEE PIE
HI HONEY!
A TEE HEE HEE EEE

WELCOME TO CHEAPIES!
PLEASE SIT ANYWHERE YOU'D LIKE!
M-MAYBE WE SHOULD GO SOMEWHERE ELSE...
BRING! BRRING!! BRRING!!
OH! SORRY, I HAVE TO TAKE THIS OUTSIDE.
BBRING
PICK A GOOD PLACE TO SIT!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
WH-
HEY! HOW ARE YOU?
SHUT


MORI!
IT'S SO GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!
HE HE, YEAH.
I GET TO HEAR YOUR VOICE ALL THE TIME!
BUT I MISS SEEING YOUR FACE!
SHUT UP, THAT'S NOT SAPPY!
HOW WAS THE TRAIN RIDE?
OH?
YEAH, IT'S GOING WELL SO FAR!
BUT HE DID THROW UP...
RIGHT NOW WE'RE AT THE DONUT STORE.
YES, CHEAPIES.
WHY DON'T YOU MEET ME HERE?
IT'S OKAY, THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.
MM-HM!
LOVE YOU TOO!
BYE! ♡

BOOP
OH SHIT.
SHUT

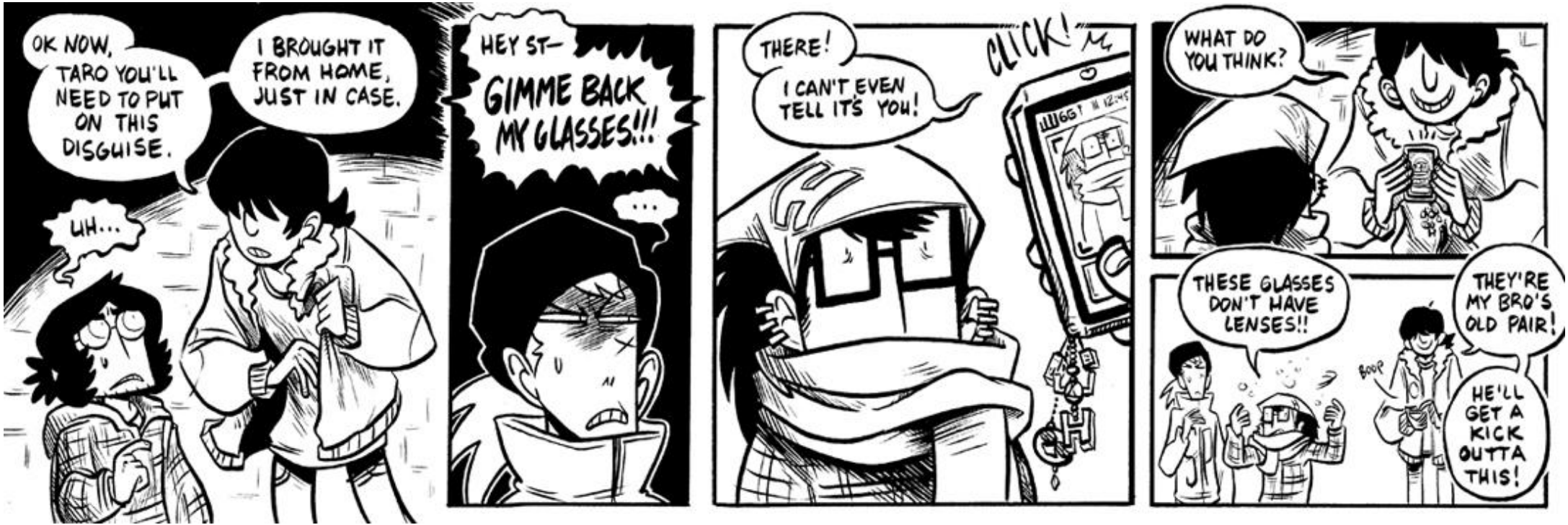
NAME: GENJI SAKANA
DOB: JULY 21
AGE: 28

THE WORST
COUSIN.

CHAPTER: VI

WH... M-MAYBE IT WAS HER... BROTHER–
OR...
DAD...
OR–
OR A BOY-FRIEND.
Noᵒᵒ
I THINK...
WE SHOULD FIND OUT.
I...I'LL GO ASSESS THE SITUATION.
W-WAIT HERE, OK?
W–
"PUNCH"
OW!!

JEEZE!!
I WASN'T EVEN GONNA SAY ANY-THING ABOUT JIRO!!
THEN WHAT WERE YOU GONNA SAY?
FORGET IT! I'M NOT GONNA TEL—
OK!
OK
OK
OK
OK
OK..
I WAS GONNA SAY...
"SHE NEVER SEEMED THE TYPE TO DO SOME-THING THIS BACK-HANDED."
BUT I GUESS YOU CAN NEVER TELL WITH PEOPLE.
WAIT... YOU KNOW HER?
OF COURSE I DO!
SHE'S WORKED ACROSS FROM US FOR TWO YEARS!
DO YOU KNOW HER NAME?
SURE, IT'S—
GUYS I HAVE A PLAN!


OK NOW, TARO YOU'LL NEED TO PUT ON THIS DISGUISE.
I BROUGHT IT FROM HOME, JUST IN CASE.
UH...
HEY ST—
GIMME BACK MY GLASSES!!!
...
THERE!
I CAN'T EVEN TELL IT'S YOU!
CLICK!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THESE GLASSES DON'T HAVE LENSES!!
BOOP
THEY'RE MY BRO'S OLD PAIR!
HE'LL GET A KICK OUTTA THIS!

I THINK I'LL KEEP THESE.
YOU CAN'T!!
WAK
THEY COMPLETE THE OUTFIT!!!
RIGHT, YUUDAI?
I'M GONNA KILL YOU, TAISEI.
....
HE LOOKS LIKE A BAG LADY.
CRINGE
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME HIT YOU?

YOUR GLASSES ARE TOO RECOGNIZEABLE, TARO!
Oh.
YOU CAN PUT THEM ON WHEN YOU GET INSIDE!
TEXT US WHEN THE COAST IS CLEAR AND WE'LL SNEAK IN!!
HOW AM I EVEN SUPPOSED TO GET THERE?
SHOVE
THIRD BUILDING ON THE RIGHT!
WITH THE ORANGE SIGN!
ORANGE...
AT LEAST I CAN SEE COLORS..
KIND OF—
DON'T WORRY, JIRO, YOUR BRO'S ON HIS WA—
BAM

WUMP
BOMP
WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM YOU LITTLE BIT DON'T YOU WAT. WHERE YOU'RE GODDAMN GOING OR DO YOU JUST
RUN RIGHT INTO PEOPLE WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU GOING.
I'M COMIN' LITTLE BRO!

PERFECT.

ding-a ling
WELCOME TO CH-
?
SHUT
SLIDE
EXCUSE Me We were to SHUT THERE.
YEAH!
UH... NEVER-MIND...

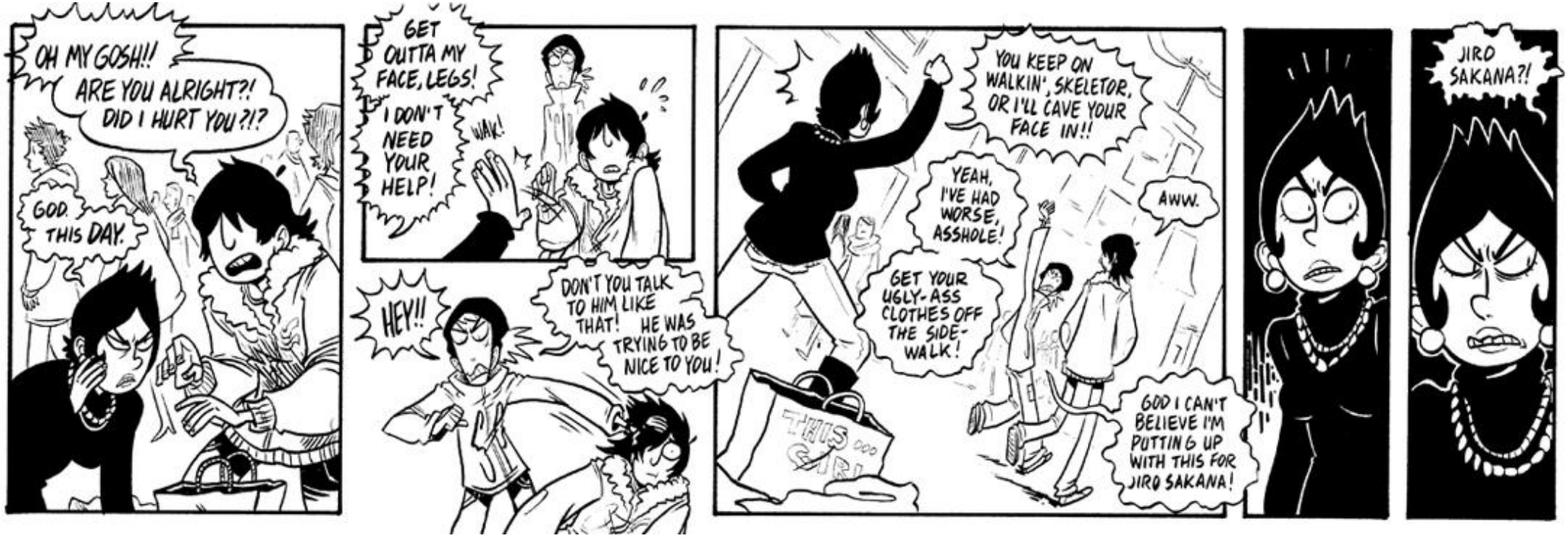
Boop
Boop
Boop
Boop
SO WHAT DYE DO YOU USE TO GET THAT HAIR COLOR?
WH---
I'VE TRIED GETTING THAT COLOR BEFORE.
Ohgh...
BUT IT JUST MAKES MY HAIR LOOK REALLY GROSS.
Hmmm my Father... vikings... Swedes...
SWEDEN? IT'S A SWEDISH PRODUCT?
MY FATHER IS SWEDISH
OH! SO IT'S NATURAL!
SHOOT! NOW I'LL NEVER HAVE COOL HAIR LIKE YOU!
...COOL...?
PAP

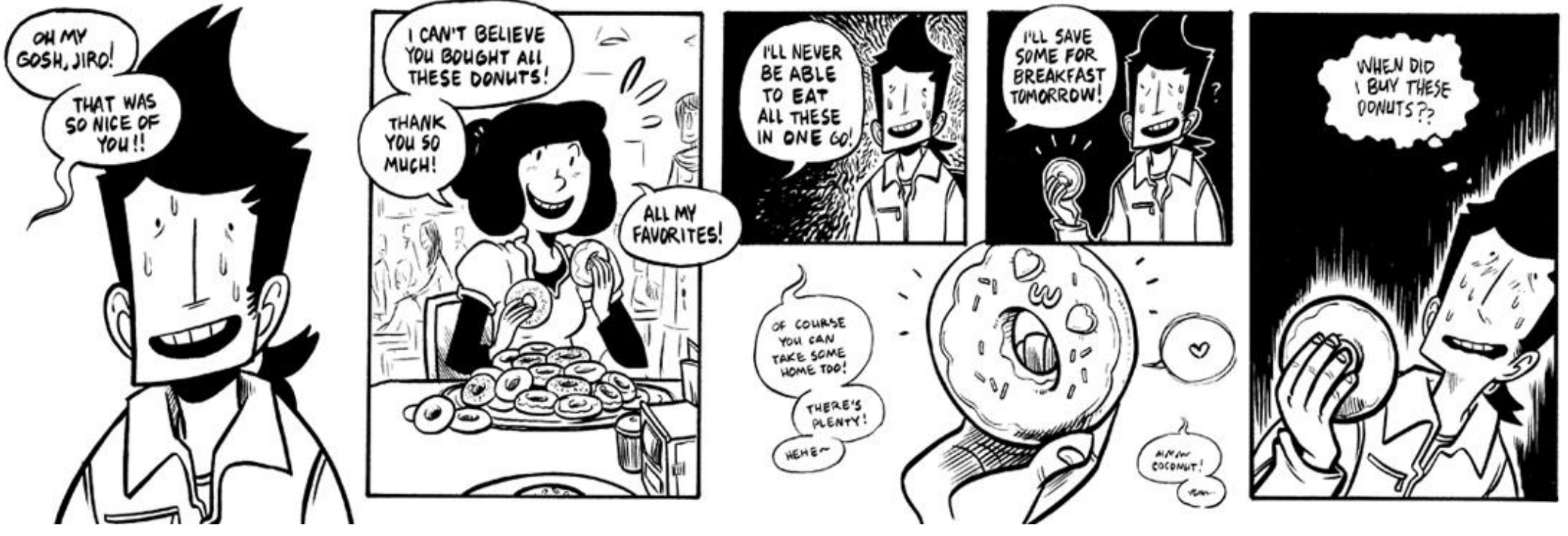
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MY HAIR'S NOT COOL.
IT TOTALLY IS!!
YOUR SCAR'S REALLY NEAT TOO!
HOW'D YOU GET IT?
WAS IT LIKE...
KUNG FU?
OR A BEAR FIGHT?
OR LIKE,
DID YOU STOP AN ARMED ROBBER,
OR-
THEY PUT YOU UP TO THIS.

TARD AND JIRO PROBABLY TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT ME. HUH???
THEY TOLD YOU TO BE NICE TO ME!
WUHHH?
I BET YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING DUMB THIS WHOLE TIME!!
THEY PROBABLY TALK ALL KINDS OF SHIT ABOUT ME AT HOME!
ABOUT HOW I'M MEAN AND DIFFICULT AND ANNOYING.
WELL?
UHHHH...
N-NOT REALLY?
THEY'RE NOT VERY GOSSIPY ABOUT WORK..
AND I'M USUALLY DRUNK..
SO...
W-WELL, WHY THEN?
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO NICE TO ME?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
NOTHING!
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!

WAIT....
YOU...
?
YOU...
OH.
OH.
OH, UH...
S-SHIT, I...
I DIDN'T... UH,
I MEAN, I-I'M SO-
BOOP
OH HEY! A TEXT FROM TARO!
AAAAAAAAA

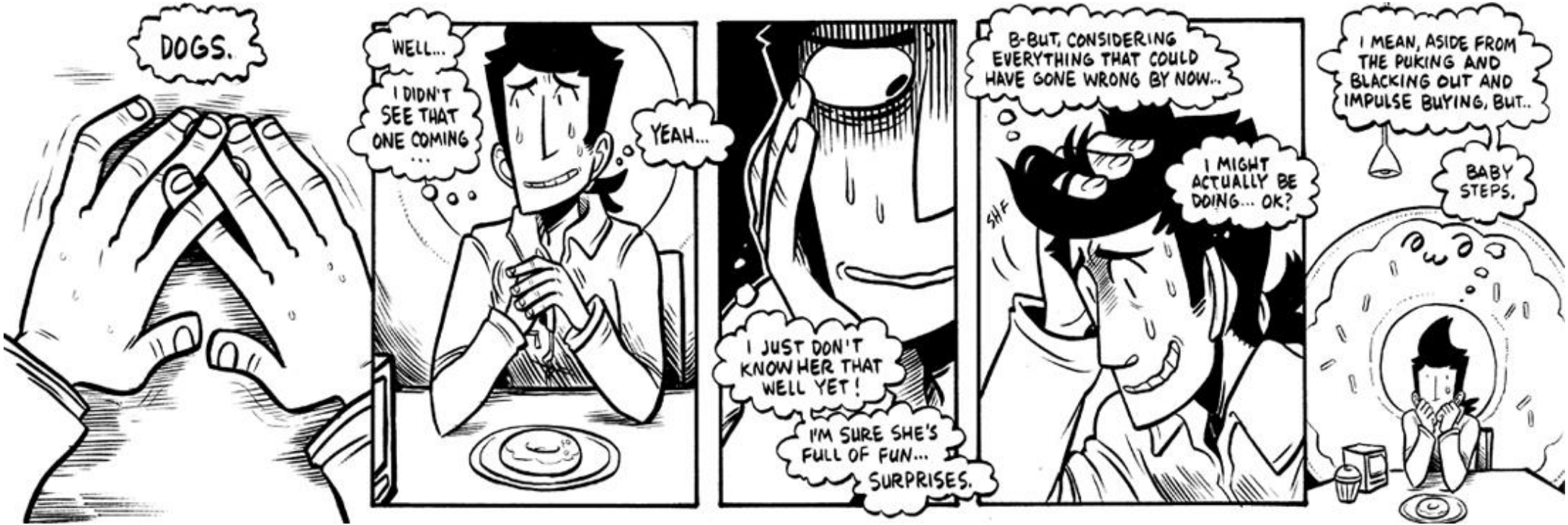
C'MON!
HE SAYS HE FOUND A GOOD SPOT!
UUH...
I SHOULD...
...GO...
HOME...
WHAT?
WHY??
I, UH...
NEED TO...
FEED MY CAT?
YOU HAVE A CAT?
I LOVE CATS!
WHAT ARE YOU.
I-I GUESS SHE COULD WAIT FOR A LITTLE BIT...
GREAT!
LET'S GET A MOVE ON—
BAMP.
OLD CAT
FUR-EVA


OH MY GOSH!!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?! DID I HURT YOU?!?
GOD. THIS DAY.
GET OUTTA MY FACE, LEGS!
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!
WAK!
HEY!!
DON'T YOU TALK TO HIM LIKE THAT! HE WAS TRYING TO BE NICE TO YOU!
YOU KEEP ON WALKIN', SKELETOR, OR I'LL CAVE YOUR FACE IN!!
YEAH, I'VE HAD WORSE, ASSHOLE!
AWW.
GET YOUR UGLY-ASS CLOTHES OFF THE SIDE-WALK!
GOD I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M PUTTING UP WITH THIS FOR JIRO SAKANA!
JIRO SAKANA?!


OH MY GOSH, JIRO!
THAT WAS SO NICE OF YOU!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BOUGHT ALL THESE DONUTS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
ALL MY FAVORITES!
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO EAT ALL THESE IN ONE GO!
I'LL SAVE SOME FOR BREAKFAST TOMORROW!
OF COURSE YOU CAN TAKE SOME HOME TOO!
THERE'S PLENTY!
HEHE~
MMM COCONUT!
WHEN DID I BUY THESE DONUTS??

SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING AT TSUKIJI, JIRO?
A-ALMOST 3 YEARS.
AND YOUR BROTHER?
U.
AND YOU WORK FOR YOUR UNCLE?
YEAH, MY UNCLE, REN SAKANA.
HE'S BEEN IN THE BUSINESS FOREVER.
W-WHAT ABOUT YOU?
YOU'RE MATSUMOTO'S ....
NIECE?
OH! NO, NO!
THE MARKET'S MY DAY JOB!
MR. MATSU IS FRIENDS WITH MY OTHER BOSS!
WHAT'S YOUR OTHER JOB?
I'LL SHOW YOU!

YOU...
TRAIN MONSTERS?
I'M A DOG TRAINER, SILLY!
THE BIG ONE IS TAICHO!
HE'S MY STAR PUPIL!
WH... WHAT DO YOU TRAIN THEM FOR?
...
COMPANIONSHIP, OF COURSE!


DOGS.
WELL...
I DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE COMING...
YEAH...
I JUST DON'T KNOW HER THAT WELL YET!
I'M SURE SHE'S FULL OF FUN... SURPRISES.
B-BUT, CONSIDERING EVERYTHING THAT COULD HAVE GONE WRONG BY NOW...
I MIGHT ACTUALLY BE DOING... OK?
SHF
I MEAN, ASIDE FROM THE PUKING AND BLACKING OUT AND IMPULSE BUYING, BUT..
BABY STEPS.

SURE!
SO TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR... DOGS..
SHOULD WE WAIT TO TELL HIM SHE'S A TWO-TIMER?
OR SHOULD WE BUST OVER THERE NOW?
I THINK WE SHOULD WAIT!
IT LOOKS LIKE ITS GOING WELL!
WE CAN'T JUST WAIT FOR HER TO PULL A FAST ONE!
'EY! YOU SEE TWO SKINNY PUNKS RUN IN HERE?!
ONE WAS FREAKISHLY TALL, THE OTHER LOOKED LIKE A BLOND WEASEL?
I SAW THEM COME IN!!
UH...
OH SHIT.
HUH?

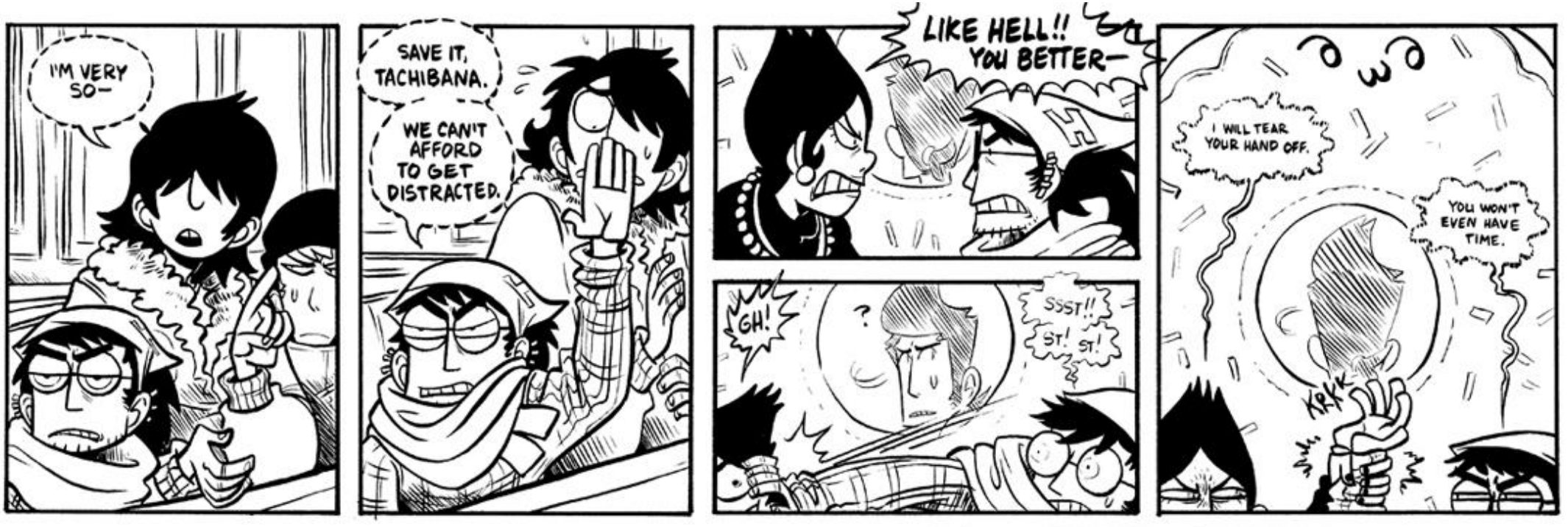
EVERY DOUGHNUT EVER
TAISEI!!
GAH—
SO, WAIT, WHO'S THAT?
SOME ANGRY LADY WE RAN INTO OUT ON THE STREET!
SHE MUST'VE FOLLOWED US IN!!
DO YOU THINK SHE SAW Y—
TAP
TAP
TAP

NAME: SHIGERU WATANABE
DOB: OCTOBER 05
AGE: 30

NO FINGERS
TO SPARE.

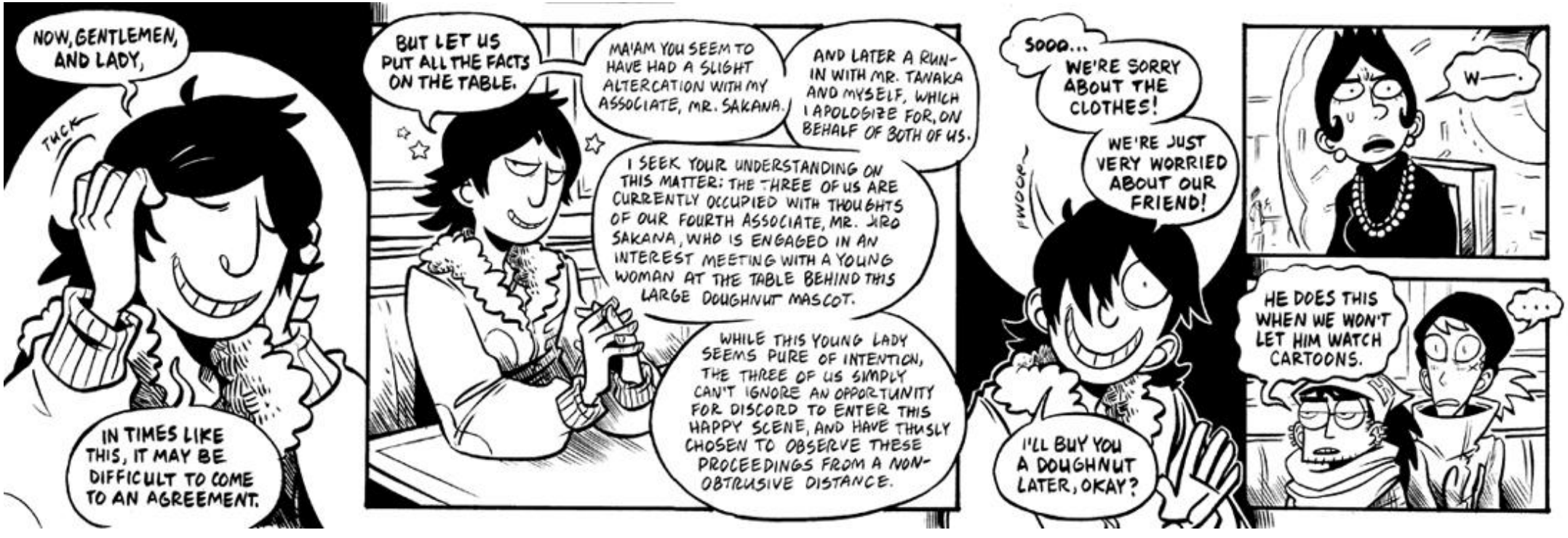
CHAPTER VII

I GUESS I'M NOT SURPRISED TO SEE THE 3 OF YOU SITTING TOGETHER...
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED IT EVEN.
SO INSTEAD OF ASKING ANY QUESTIONS...
I'M GOING TO SIT HERE PATIENTLY...
WHILE YOU EACH OFFER ME SINCERE APOLOGIES.
WHY DO I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE?!
WHY?!
YOU JUST RAN INTO ME OUT...
WAIT, YOU'RE A MAN?


I'M VERY SO—
SAVE IT, TACHIBANA.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GET DISTRACTED.
LIKE HELL!! YOU BETTER—
GH!
?
SSST!! ST! ST!
I WILL TEAR YOUR HAND OFF.
YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE TIME.
KPKK

WOAH, GUYS!!
CHILL OUT!
MISS, WE'RE ALL VERY SORRY FOR ANY GRIEF WE MAY HAVE CAUSED.
AND WE'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU.
RIGHT, GUYS!
NO.
NO.
OH.
WELL THEN...
I'LL REPAY YOU FOR THE CLOT—
WAK

I REALIZE TENSIONS ARE RUNNING HIGH RIGHT NOW...
BUT I REALLY DON'T THINK VIOLENCE IS THE ANSWER, YOU GUYS!
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!!
I'M NOT LEAVING 'TILL THESE TWO JERKS APOLOGIZE!
AAAAA!
WE'RE JERKS?!
HE WAS TRYING TO HELP YOU AND YOU JUST—
IT'S OKAY!
NO NEED TO GET ANGRY ON MY BEHALF!
I'M SURE THERE'S A FAIR AND BUSINESS-LIKE SOLUTION TO THIS DILEMMA!
WHAT.


NOW, GENTLEMEN, AND LADY,
THCK
IN TIMES LIKE THIS, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT.
BUT LET US PUT ALL THE FACTS ON THE TABLE.
MA'AM YOU SEEM TO HAVE HAD A SLIGHT ALTERCATION WITH MY ASSOCIATE, MR. SAKANA.
AND LATER A RUN-IN WITH MR. TANAKA AND MYSELF, WHICH I APOLOGIZE FOR, ON BEHALF OF BOTH OF US.
I SEEK YOUR UNDERSTANDING ON THIS MATTER: THE THREE OF US ARE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED WITH THOUGHTS OF OUR FOURTH ASSOCIATE, MR. JIRO SAKANA, WHO IS ENGAGED IN AN INTEREST MEETING WITH A YOUNG WOMAN AT THE TABLE BEHIND THIS LARGE DOUGHNUT MASCOT.
WHILE THIS YOUNG LADY SEEMS PURE OF INTENTION, THE THREE OF US SIMPLY CAN'T IGNORE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCORD TO ENTER THIS HAPPY SCENE, AND HAVE THUSLY CHOSEN TO OBSERVE THESE PROCEEDINGS FROM A NON-OBTRUSIVE DISTANCE.
SOOO...
WE'RE SORRY ABOUT THE CLOTHES!
WE'RE JUST VERY WORRIED ABOUT OUR FRIEND!
FWOOP
I'LL BUY YOU A DOUGHNUT LATER, OKAY?
W—
HE DOES THIS WHEN WE WON'T LET HIM WATCH CARTOONS.
...

OKAY, LEMME GET THIS STRAIGHT...
THE THREE OF YOU ARE SPYING—
OBSERVING!
"OBSERVING" YOUR FRIEND, WHO'S ON A DATE,
AND DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE HERE.
WE'RE BEING NON-OBTRUSIVE!
RIGHT...
AND THIS FRIEND IS THE GUY AT THE TABLE BEHIND THE DOUGHNUT?
YEP!
YOU MEAN THE SWEATY LITTLE LOSER WHO'S SPUTTERING ALL OVER THAT POOR GIRL?
YE—WAIT.
THAT WEIRD LITTLE SHELL OF A MAN WHO'S TOO SCARED OF A NICE GIRL TO FUNCTION LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN BEING?
THE ONE THAT'S PROBABLY GOT SOME MENTAL ISSUES?
YEAH.
I'D DROP THAT PSYCHO IF I WAS HER.
AHAH HAH HA HA!
HAAAAA! I MEAN WOW. WHAT AN ASSHOLE!

AND SO NOW, WHENEVER I FEEL BAD,
HE DOES THAT THING WITH THE EEL HEADS!
AND I MEAN,
IT'S SUPER CREEPY, BUT IT...
MAKES ME FEEL BETTER?
IS THAT WEIRD?
NO! NOT AT ALL!
ALL OF THESE STORIES ARE SO GREAT!
NOTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPENS AT MATSUMOTO'S!
THE ICEMAKER BEHIND OUR STALL BLEW UP ONCE.
THAT'S ABOUT IT.
ANYWAYS, I'M SO GLAD WE FINALLY GOT TOGETHER!
WAIT... FINALLY?
YOU'RE JUST THE CUTEST THING, JIRO!
OH OK.

A-ACTUALLY... I WANNA THANK YOU!
I'M STARTING TO FEEL REALLY SILLY NOW!
SILLY?
WHY DO YOU FEEL SILLY?
I WAS UH...
K-KINDA SCARED TO TALK TO YOU BUT...
I-I'M HAVING A REALLY GREAT TIME HERE!
THIS IS REALLY NICE!
YOU WERE SCARED?
J-JUST A LITTLE!
ghhhh...
UH-
UH...
WH-
I'M SO SOH-H-HOORRYYY...
Wuuhh ??

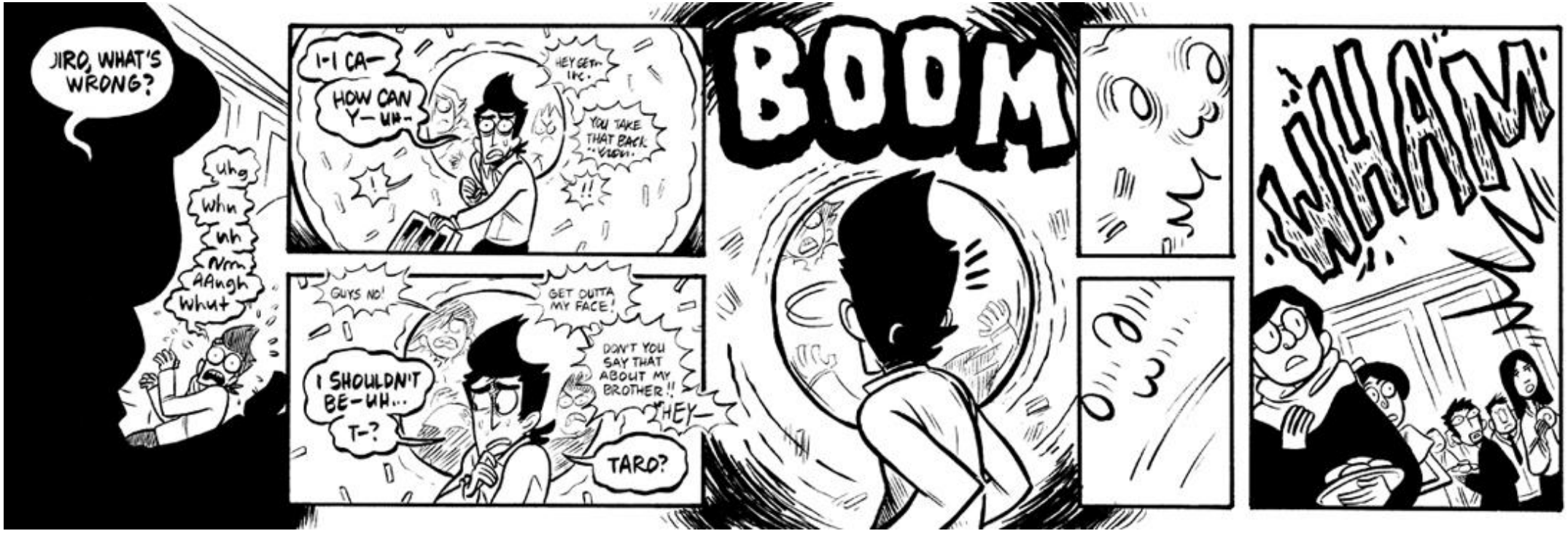
I KNEW YOU WERE SCARED!
I-I WASN'T TH-THAT SCARED...UH.....
P-PLEASE DON'T CRY CASH— UH, CA-RE... REG-AAGH!..
I COULD TELL YOU WERE SCARED FROM THE FIRST TIME WE MET AT THE MARKET!
YOU TOOK ONE LOOK AT ME AND FAINTED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MARKET!
AND THEN MR. MURA RAN OVER YOU WITH HIS CART!
DON'T LOOK AT ME, IT AIN'T MY FAULT.
31
. . . .
WHY DON'T I REMEMBER THAT??

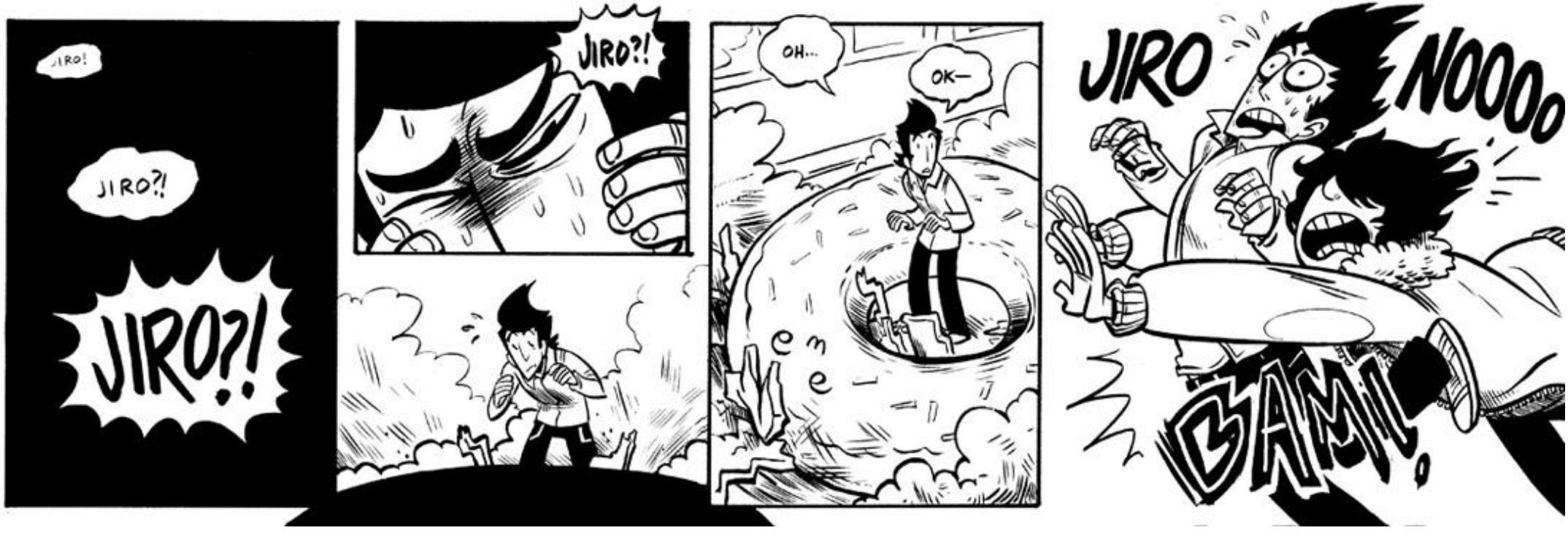
W-WELL IN ANY CASE...
EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW!
I'M GLAD WE MET UP TODAY!!
REALLY?
REALLY!
AND WHEN YOU GAVE ME YOUR NUMBER YESTERDAY, I WAS SO HAPPY!
I REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU FOR A LONG TIME.
AND I WAS SILLY TO BE SCARED!!
I...I THINK YOU'RE PRETTY GREAT AND MAYBE..
I MEAN..
I WAS THINKING MAYBE WE COULD...
UH...
AWWW, YOU'RE THE BEST, JIRO!
I'M SORRY FOR EVERYTHING.
AHHUH.

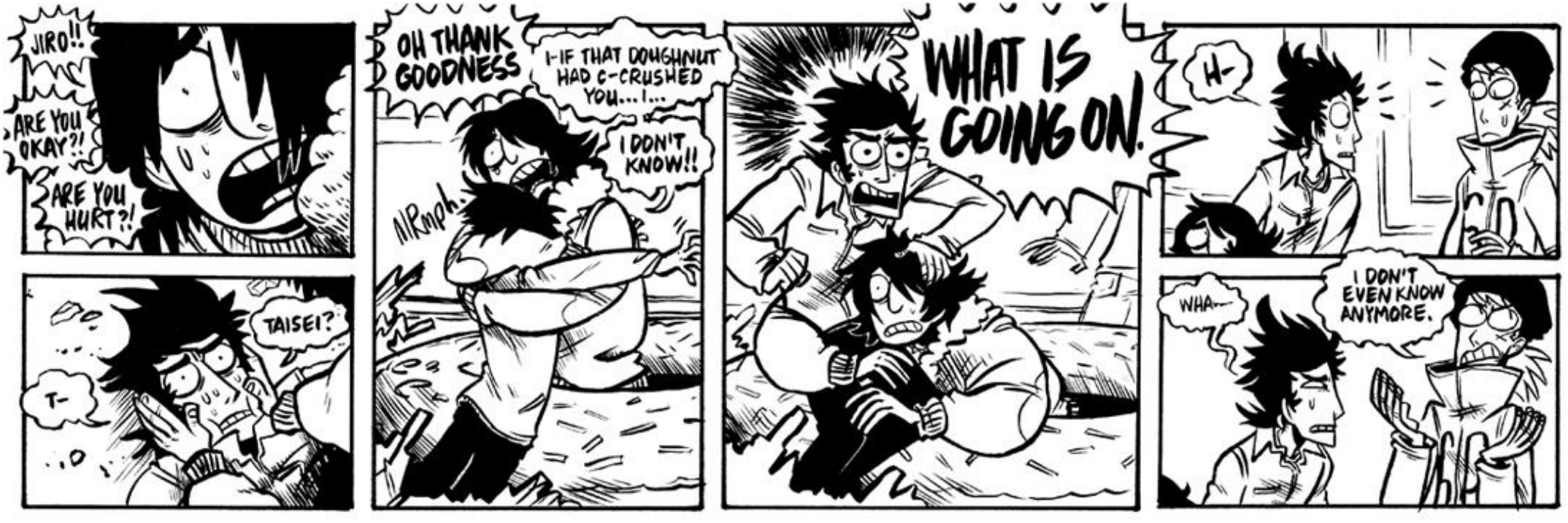
Y-YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR!
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SORRY!
NO!
YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!
I'M THE MONSTER HERE!
I'VE FELT SO GUILTY FOR SO LONG I JUST HAVE TO SAY IT!
I'M SORRY, HIRO SAKANA.
PAT
PAT
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF FOR WHAT I DID IN PRESCHOOL.

...ARE YOU OKAY?
PRE...
PRESCHOOL?
JIRO?
YOU...
JIWO?
YOU'RE...

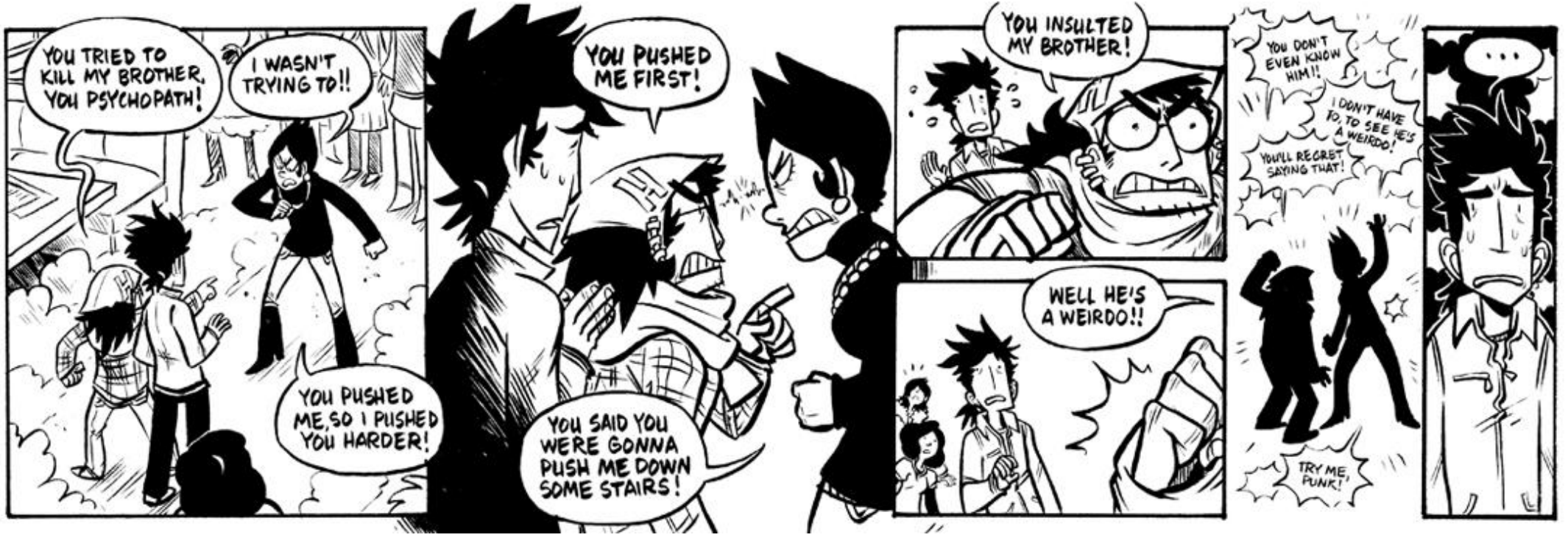
CHIE
YAMAMOTO


JIRO, WHAT'S WRONG?
Uhg
Whn
Uh
Rrm
AAugh
Whut
I-I CA—
HOW CAN Y—UH—
HEY GET-LPC.
YOU TAKE THAT BACK. YEEH.
!!
GUYS NO!
I SHOULDN'T BE—UH...
T—?
GET OUTTA MY FACE!
DON'T YOU SAY THAT ABOUT MY BROTHER!!
HEY—
TARO?
BOOM
SLAM


JIRO!
JIRO?!
JIRO?!
JIRO?!
OH...
OK—
JIRO
NOOOO
BAM!


JIRO!!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
ARE YOU HURT?!
TAISEI?
T-
OH THANK GOODNESS
I-IF THAT DOUGHNUT HAD C-CRUSHED YOU...!...
I DON'T KNOW!!
11Rmph.
WHAT IS GOING ON.
H-
WHA-
I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYMORE.

WILL SOMEBODY JUST TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?!?!
YOUR FACE!
WH— WHERE IS...
WELL GOODNESS!
Whew~
JIRO ARE YOU OKAY?!


YOU TRIED TO KILL MY BROTHER, YOU PSYCHOPATH!
I WASN'T TRYING TO!!
YOU PUSHED ME, SO I PUSHED YOU HARDER!
YOU PUSHED ME FIRST!
YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA PUSH ME DOWN SOME STAIRS!
YOU INSULTED MY BROTHER!
WELL HE'S A WEIRDO!!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM!!
I DON'T HAVE TO, TO SEE HE'S A WEIRDO!
YOU'LL REGRET SAYING THAT!
TRY ME, PUNK!
...

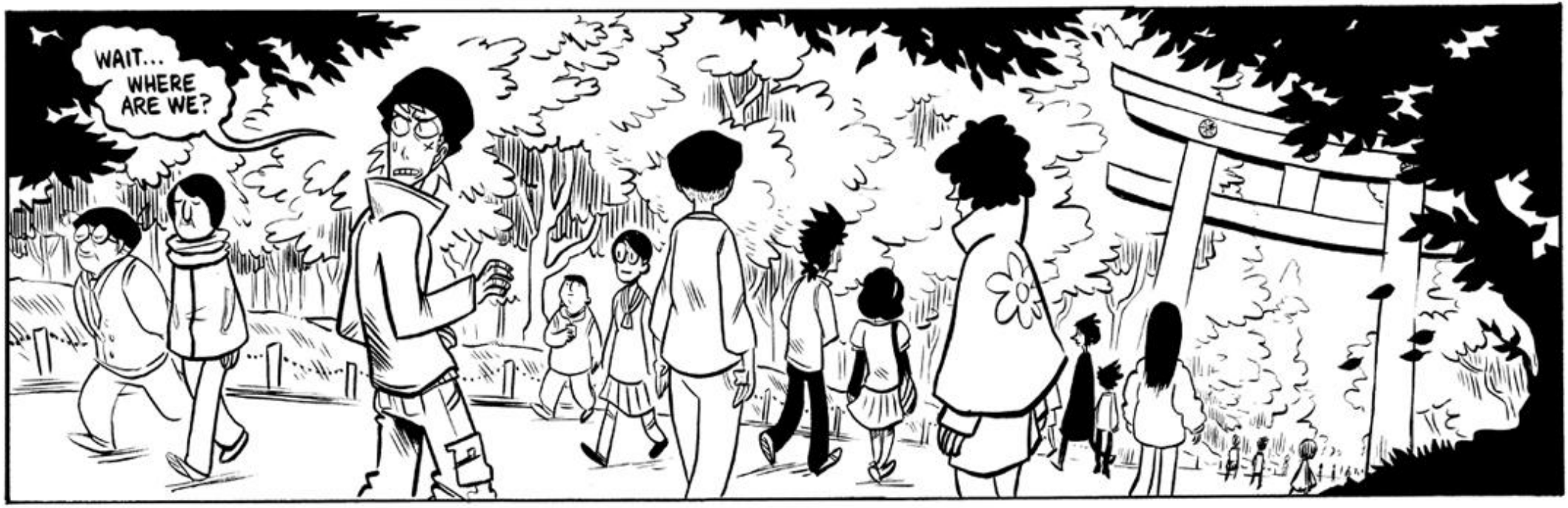
JIRO, THIS GIRL'S TWO-TIMING YOU!!
I AM?
OUTSIDE WE HEARD HER TALKING TO SOME GUY NAMED MORI!
SHE SAID SHE LOVED HIM!
BUT... THIS IS MORI.
MORIKO.
hmmm
THEY'RE LESBIANS.
SHE'S MY SISTER!!!
PHP

CH—CHIE, COULD I TALK TO YOU ALONE?
SURE!
J-JIRO?!
WHERE ARE YOU GO—
EXCUSE ME, SIR...
uh..
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...
STORE DAMAGES.

U-UM, WELL OF COURSE I'LL PAY FOR THE DAMAGES.
I...I THINK THIS MIGHT BE ALL MY FAULT ANYWAYS..
L-LET ME JUST—
OH GOSH THERE THEY GO...UH...
SHUT
TAR- oh...
OH, UM...
uh...
UUGH... WHAT TIME IS IT, THIS IS RIDICULOUS.
BOOP
YUUDAI!!

COULD YOU GO KEEP AN EYE ON JIRO AND HIS LADY-FRIEND?
WHA—
i uh i have this cat and i should uh-
go home now
and feed her a-gain.
HERE!
WHAT IS THAT?
MY CELL NUMBER!
ghh!
DON'T GET UP IN THEIR GRILL!
WE DON'T WANNA MAKE THEM EVEN MADDER!
JUST GIMME A CALL WHEN THEY SETTLE SOMEWHERE!
PAP
PAP
PAP
PAP
PAP
PAP
I'M COUNTIN' ON YOU, DUDE!

HMMm...
YOU IDIOT. YOU DON'T NEED HIM IN YOUR PHONE.
ADD NEW CONTACT
JUST CALL HIM ONCE AND BE DONE WITH IT.
DON'T BE STUPID...
...
Y-YOU CAN DELETE IT LATER.
Boop


WAIT...
WHERE ARE WE?

NAME: JAN KRIEGER
DOB: JULY 28
AGE: 22

ALWAYS TRIES
HIS BEST.

CHAPTER VIII

SO YOU SEE, OFFICER,
ALL OF THIS WAS JUST A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING!
GET OFF
TAISE!
TAISE!!
WE'RE ALL VERY SORRY,
THE DAMAGES HAVE BEEN PAID,
AND WE PROMISE NEVER TO COME BACK!
TAISE!!
DAMMIT TAISE! RRGH!
WELL, AS LONG AS IT'S PAID OFF.
TAISE!!
STOP IT LET GO!!
RGHrgh!!
I'LL GIVE YOU KIDS A WARNING THIS TIME.
LET ME GO!!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH OFFICER!
GRR...
THANKS FOR THE DEAL ON THE SCOOTER LAST WEEK!
STAY OUT OF TROUBLE!

TARO!
I'LL PUT YOU DOWN, BUT YOU HAVE TO STOP—
WHOOF
NOW WHERE'S THAT CRETIN WHO INSULTED MY BROTHER?!
URRGhh.
TARO WAIT!!
I KNOW YOU'RE REALLY ANGRY, BUT WE ALREADY SCREWED UP A WHOLE BUNCH.
LET'S JUST FIND JIRO AND APOLOGIZE, ALRIGHT?
NO MORE FIGHTING.
...
ITS A GOOD THING I LIKE YOU.

SO WHY ARE WE GOING THIS WAY?
JIRO HEADED THIS WAY WHEN HE LEFT!
...SORRY I HIT YOU.
AW, NO BIG!
AND WHY ARE YOU GOING THIS WAY?!
CUZ YOUR WEIRD BROTHER KIDNAPPED MY SISTER!
I'M NOT FOLLOWING YOU!!
HE DIDN'T—
SSSHHHH! I'M GETTING A CALL!
BRRRING! BRIIING!!
HELLO?
UH... ER...
HI YUUDAI! WHERE ARE YOU?
I THINK I'M LOST.

OH NO!
DO YOU STILL SEE JIRO?
HE'S HERE SOMEWHERE BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HERE IS!!
I NEVER COME TO HARAJUKU!
COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE AREA?
UH... LOTS OF TREES.
A BIG GATE.
KIDS WITH LONGBOWS...
OH, AND NOW I'M STUCK BEHIND A WEDDING PROCESSION.
HMMM... IS IT A SHINTO WEDDING?
YES. VERY MUCH SO.
YOU'RE IN MEIJI PARK!
FABULOUS. PLEASE COME FIND ME.

SO...
YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME??
NOPE.
I'D BEEN CALLING YOU "CASH REGISTER GIRL" FOR MONTHS.
I JUST....
WANTED TO BE HONEST WITH YOU.
THANK YOU, JIRO.
THIS HAS BEEN A PRETTY INTENSE DAY, HUH?
I'M GOING TO BED WHEN I GET HOME.
AND I'M JUST GONNA STAY THERE.
FOREVER.

A-AND I'M SORRY THE GUYS BARGED IN ON US LIKE THAT.
I TOLD THEM WE WERE JUST MEETING UP...
BUT...
I GUESS THEY THOUGHT IT WAS...
SOME-THING ELSE.
AND I—
JIRO! ENOUGH WITH THE APOLOGIES!
BMP!
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL! MORI WAS DOING THE SAME THING.
BUT MAYBE... Y'KNOW, FOR FUTURE REFERENCE...
WE SHOULD KEEP HER AND YOUR BROTHER AWAY FROM EACH OTHER.
YES, AGREED.

BUT I'M GLAD WE MET AGAIN AFTER SO MANY YEARS!
I CAN FINALLY APOLOGIZE FOR EVERYTHING!
THE PUSHING.
THE KICKING.
THE TIME I POURED PAINT DOWN YOUR PANTS.
AHAH... YEAH, YOU DID ALL THAT...
THE PUNCHING AND BITING.
LOCKING YOU IN THE JANITOR'S CLOSET...
FIVE DIFFERENT TIMES...
AND ESPECIALLY MAKING YOU LEAVE PRESCHOOL.
EVEN BACK THEN I FELT BAD ABOUT IT.
. . . OH.
WELL YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ONE...
I DIDN'T LEAVE BECAUSE OF YOU.

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!!
CHIE...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?!
YOUR LAST DAY...
THAT WAS THE DAY I TOOK THE ANT FARM AND—
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU DID.
LATER THAT NIGHT, OUR PARENTS WERE...
COMING HOME FROM SOMETHING...
I DUNNO.
AND THERE WAS THIS TRUCK AND...
A BIG CRASH AND EVERYTHING.
UH...
WERE THEY...
OKAY?
...
NO.

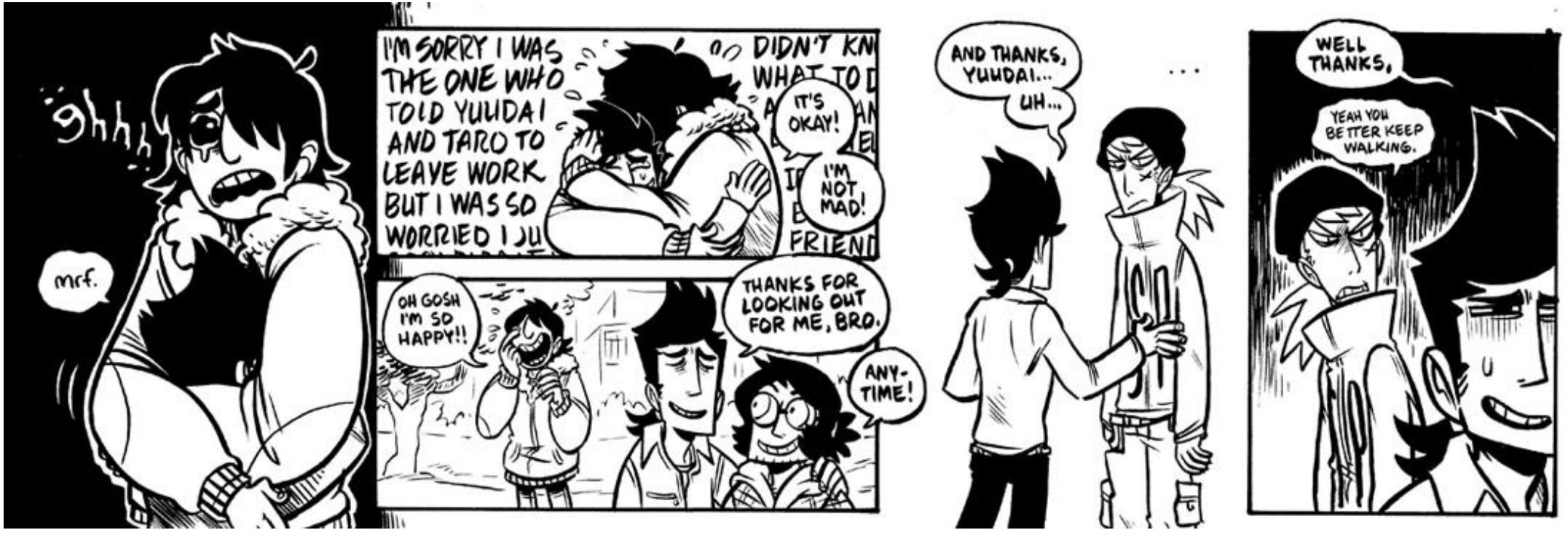
SO WE WENT TO LIVE WITH OUR UNCLE, AND HE SENT US TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL.
IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
...
DON'T TELL TARD I TOLD YOU ALL THAT.
SO TELL ME ABOUT YOUR SISTER!!!

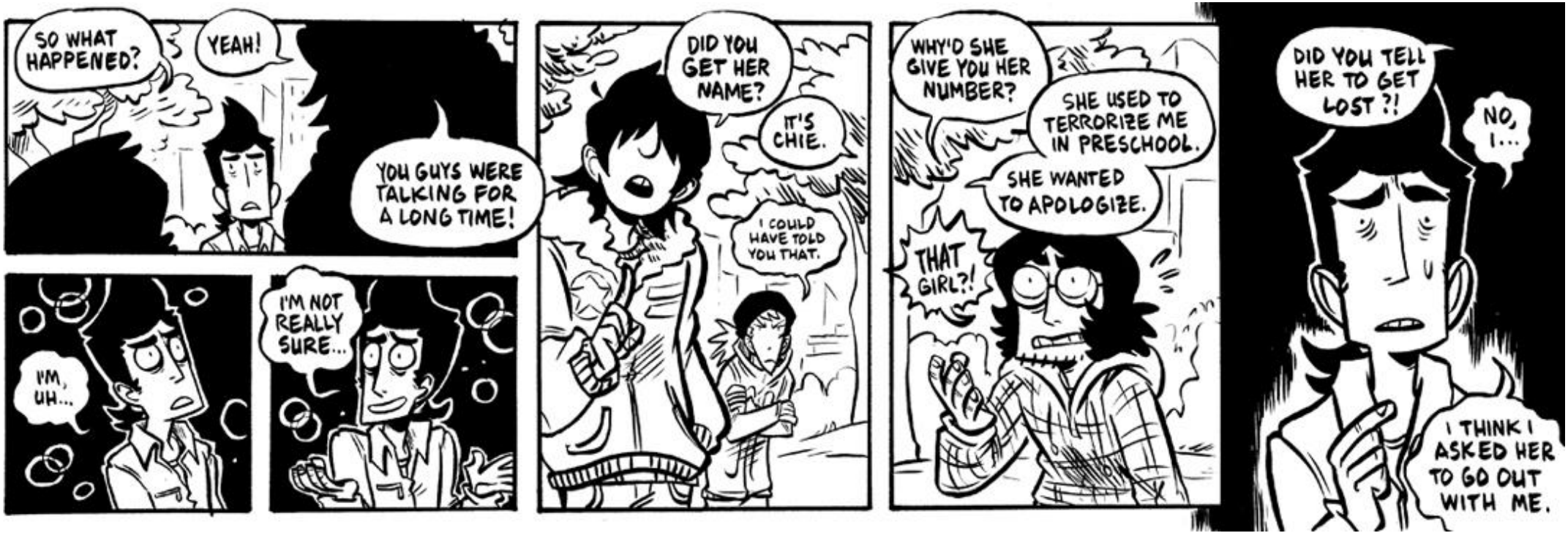
MORI'S HAVING A TOUGH TIME RIGHT NOW.
SHE DIDN'T USE TO BE SO ANGRY.
PLUCK
PLUCK
PLUCK
SHE WAS LIVING WITH HER FIANCE IN KYOTO, BUT...
THEY HAD A REALLY BIG FIGHT...
WHOSE PANTIES ARE THESE?!
SO SHE'S LIVING WITH ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
AND...
UH...
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES.
TODAY HAS JUST BEEN...
VERY STRESSFUL.

WELL, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I THINK YOU HANDLED IT PRETTY WELL.
TH-THANK YOU.
BUT I DO HAVE ONE QUESTION.
Y...YEAH?
IF YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME
WHY DID YOU AGREE TO GET LUNCH WITH ME?
U-huuh...uh
OH.
uhmmm
uh..
I-I...
uh.
WELL
...CHIE

FFTSΞ
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?
HUGGING?
OH... WAIT.
HA!
I THINK HE JUST THREW UP.
OH NO.
PFT-
OH BUT HE DIDN'T THROW UP ON HER!
YEAH!

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE WRAPPING UP.
OH GOSH, WHAT IF HE'S REALLY MAD?
LIKE...
SUPER UNFORGIVABLE MAD?!
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
UH.... JIRO...
WE'RE REALLY SORRY.
WE WERE JUST... SUPER WORRIED AND I...
WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU ...
WERE OKAY...
uh...
IT'S OKAY, TAI.


Ohhh
mrf.
I'M SORRY I WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD YUUDAI AND TARO TO LEAVE WORK BUT I WAS SO WORRIED I JU
DIDN'T KN
WHAT TO D
IT'S OKAY!
I'M NOT MAD!
FRIEN
OH GOSH I'M SO HAPPY!!
THANKS FOR LOOKING OUT FOR ME, BRO.
ANY-TIME!
AND THANKS, YUUDAI...
UH...
...
WELL THANKS,
YEAH YOU BETTER KEEP WALKING.


SO WHAT HAPPENED?
YEAH!
YOU GUYS WERE TALKING FOR A LONG TIME!
I'M, UH...
I'M NOT REALLY SURE...
DID YOU GET HER NAME?
IT'S CHIE.
I COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT.
WHY'D SHE GIVE YOU HER NUMBER?
SHE USED TO TERRORIZE ME IN PRESCHOOL.
SHE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE.
THAT GIRL?!
DID YOU TELL HER TO GET LOST?!
NO, I...
I THINK I ASKED HER TO GO OUT WITH ME.

DID SHE SAY YES?!
W-WAIT A MINUTE!
GAH!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!
SHE MADE YOUR LIFE HELL!!
WELL, THAT WAS A REALLY LONG TIME AGO, AND SHE WAS REALLY SORRY.
AND SHE'S ALWAYS WORKING HARD AT HER STALL.
A-AND IT JUST SEEMS LIKE SHE'S REALLY GOT HER LIFE TOGETHER.
MORE THAN I DO...
I JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE-
Y'KNOW,
KINDA NICE?
B-BUT-!
ZZZZZ
BUT DID SHE SAY YES?!
AGH!
SHOVE

E-EVERYTHING'S KINDA FUZZY, BUT..
WE'RE MEETING AFTER WORK ON TUESDAY, SO I GUESS...
THAT'S A YES?
JIRO!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?!
I-I HAVE A GIRL...FRIEND?
WELL YES, BUT NOW WE CAN CELEBRATE-
BY GOING
DRINKING
REALLY, TAI?
YES!!
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL
YES,!! IS!!!
IT KIND OF IS, BRO.
WELL, I GUESS WE HAVEN'T ALL BEEN OUT TOGETHER IN A WHILE...
RIGHT?!
YEAH. LET'S GET SOMETHING IN ME BEFORE I HAVE A HEART ATTACK.
YUUDAI WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?!?

WHA~?
ZOOOM!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WE'RE ALL GONNA CELEBRATE!
DRINKS ON ME!!
I-I SHOULD REALLY JUST GO HOME.
WHY? YOU'VE COME THIS FAR, YOU MIGHT AS WELL JOIN US.
YEAH!
YOU'RE HERE CUZ YOU CARE ABOUT JIRO!
YOU SHOULD PARTY TOO!
WHAT LIES HAVE YOU BEEN TELLING THIS MAN.

LISTEN, IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR ME TO COME.
I'LL SEE YOU GUYS ON MONDAY.
C-CONGRATS, I GUESS.
ONE DRINK.
HUH?
I'M NOT SURE WHY YOU'RE HERE,
BUT YOU ARE HERE.
SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE ONE DRINK WITH US.
NO HARD FEELINGS.
I GUESS.
AWESOME!!!
THIS IS GONNA BE THE BEST NIGHT EVER!
IT'S JUST ONE DRINK.
HOW BAD COULD THAT BE?

RINGG
RINGGG

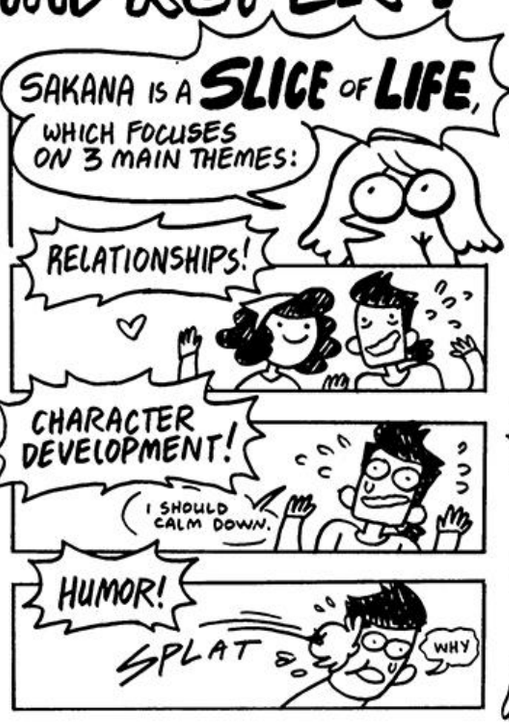
uuh?
RING RIING
mnghh shit..
CLHHK
ow.
RING RING
KCHAK
fugh..
RING!! RINGG!!
mmMULLO?
HOW'S MY FAVORITE GUY?

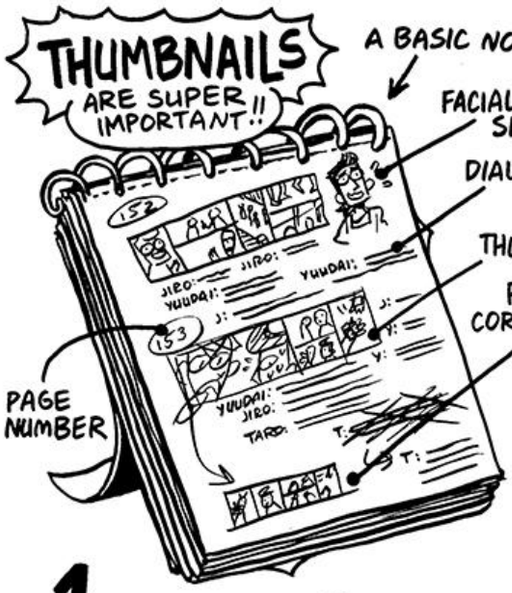
M-M-M-MISTER NISHIMURA!!
I-I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN!!
AH, I KNOW.
BUT MY ASSOCIATES WERE TIRED OF WAITING IN THE HALL.
WHACHU LOOKIN AT DIPSHIT.
W-WELL CAN I H-HELP YOU OR, O-OFFER YOU SOME T-T-TEA OR...
NO, NO!
DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF, WE'LL BE LEAVING SHORTLY.
JUST THOUGHT I'D POP BY AND SAY HELLO!
OH, AND HOW'D THE TALK WITH YOUR FATHER GO TODAY?
IS HE READY TO GIVE YOU THE MARKET STALL?

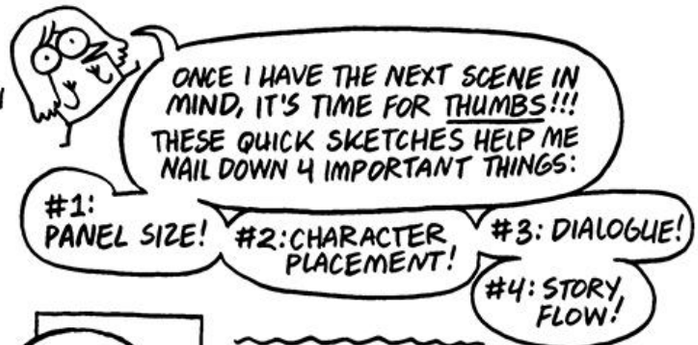
I'M WORKING ON IT...
I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU WANT WITH THAT DINKY STALL ANYWAYS.
OH, COME ON NOW, GENJI!
TSUKIJI'S ONE OF THE LARGEST MARKETS IN THE WORLD!
MERCH FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE GOING IN AND OUT EVERY DAY...
A BUSINESS-MAN LIKE ME COULD USE A HUB LIKE THAT.
W-WELL, IT'S GONNA BE HARD FOR HIM TO GIVE IT UP.
WELL, NEXT TIME,
JUST ASK IF HE'D RATHER KEEP THE STALL...
OR HIS ONLY SON!

U-uh...
I...
NOW, NORMALLY I'M NOT THIS HARD ON FOLKS.
BUT YOU DO OWE ME A LOT OF MONEY.
AND I'M GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO PAY IT ALL BACK AT ONCE!
SO REALLY, THAT'S NOT SO BAD, IS IT?
I LIKE YOU, GENJI.
I KNOW YOU WON'T LET ME DOWN.
OH, AND SORRY ABOUT THE DOOR.
I'LL LEND YOU SOME MONEY TO HAVE IT FIXED.

HOW to SAKANA
WITH MAD RUPERT







PANEL VARIATION IS IMPORTANT AND KEEPS YOUR PANEL LAYOUTS INTERESTING!

EVERY 5 PAGES, I TRY TO INCLUDE:

1 HUGE ESTABLISHING SHOT

2 WEIRD ANGLES

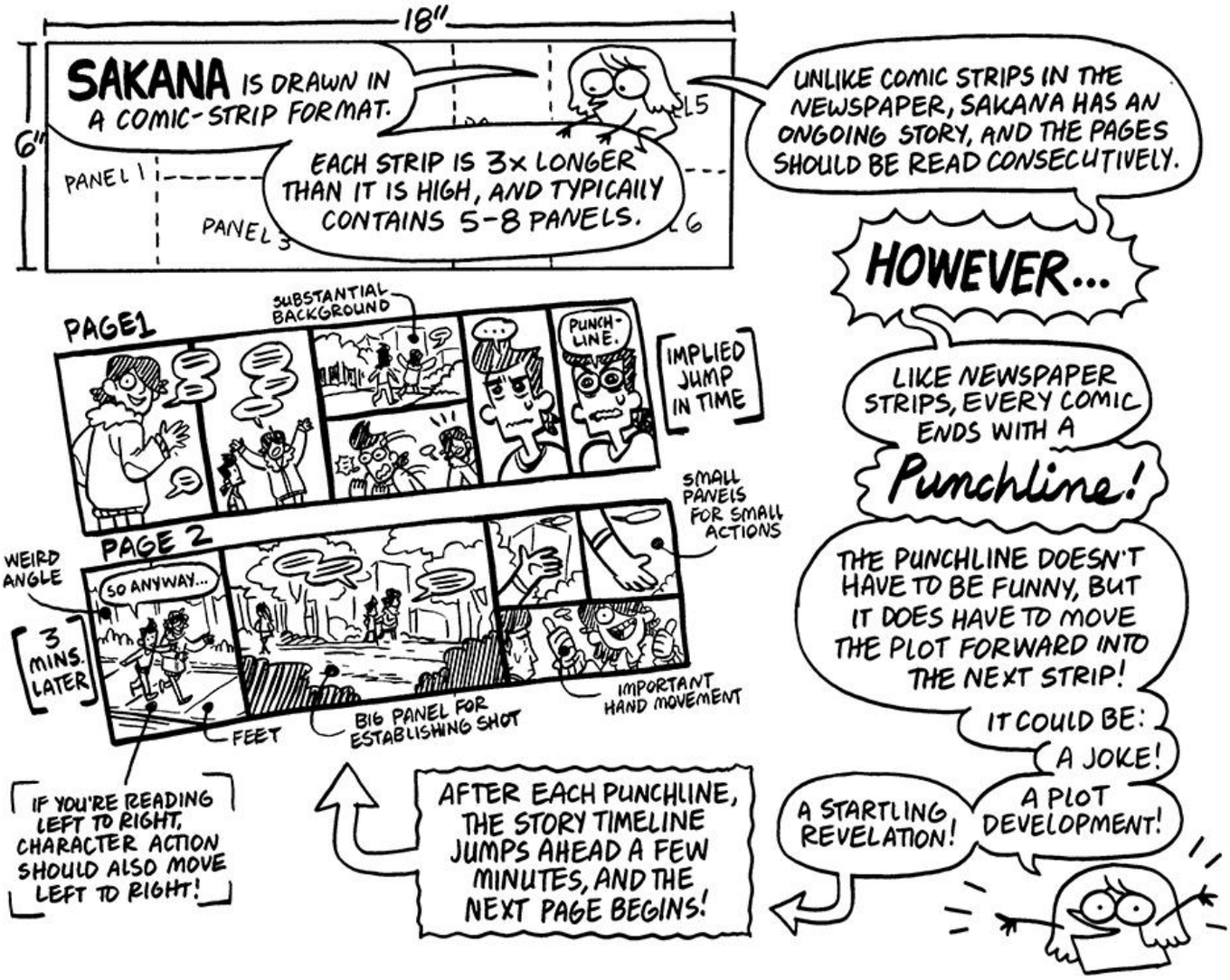
3 PANELS WITH VISIBLE FEET (OR FULL-BODY)

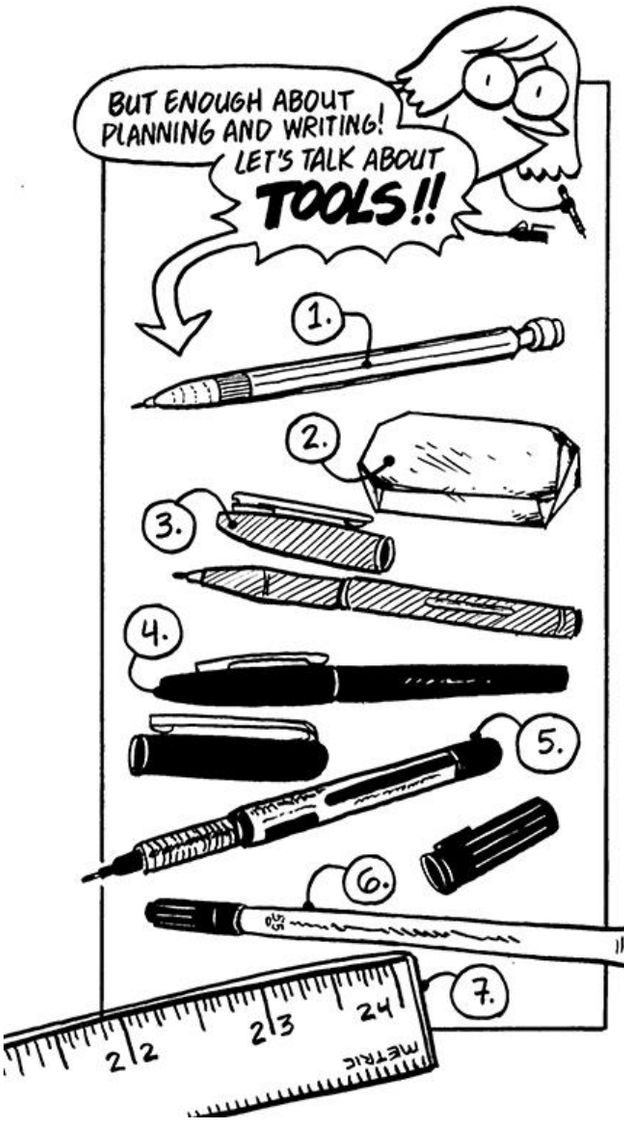
4 SUBSTANTIAL BACKGROUNDS

5 PANELS WITH IMPORTANT HAND MOVEMENT

*THIS IS MY **5** IN **5** RULE!

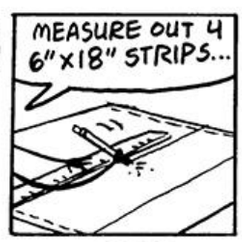
*I DO MY BEST, BUT SOMETIMES I DON'T FILL THE WHOLE QUOTA...

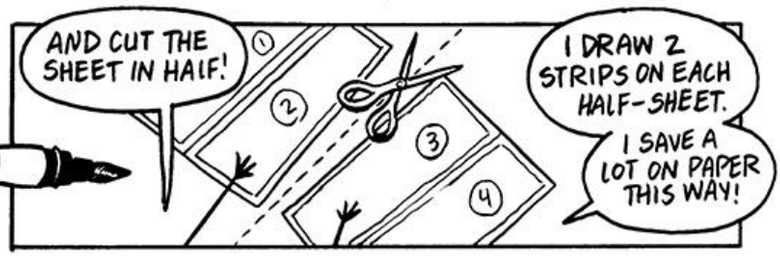


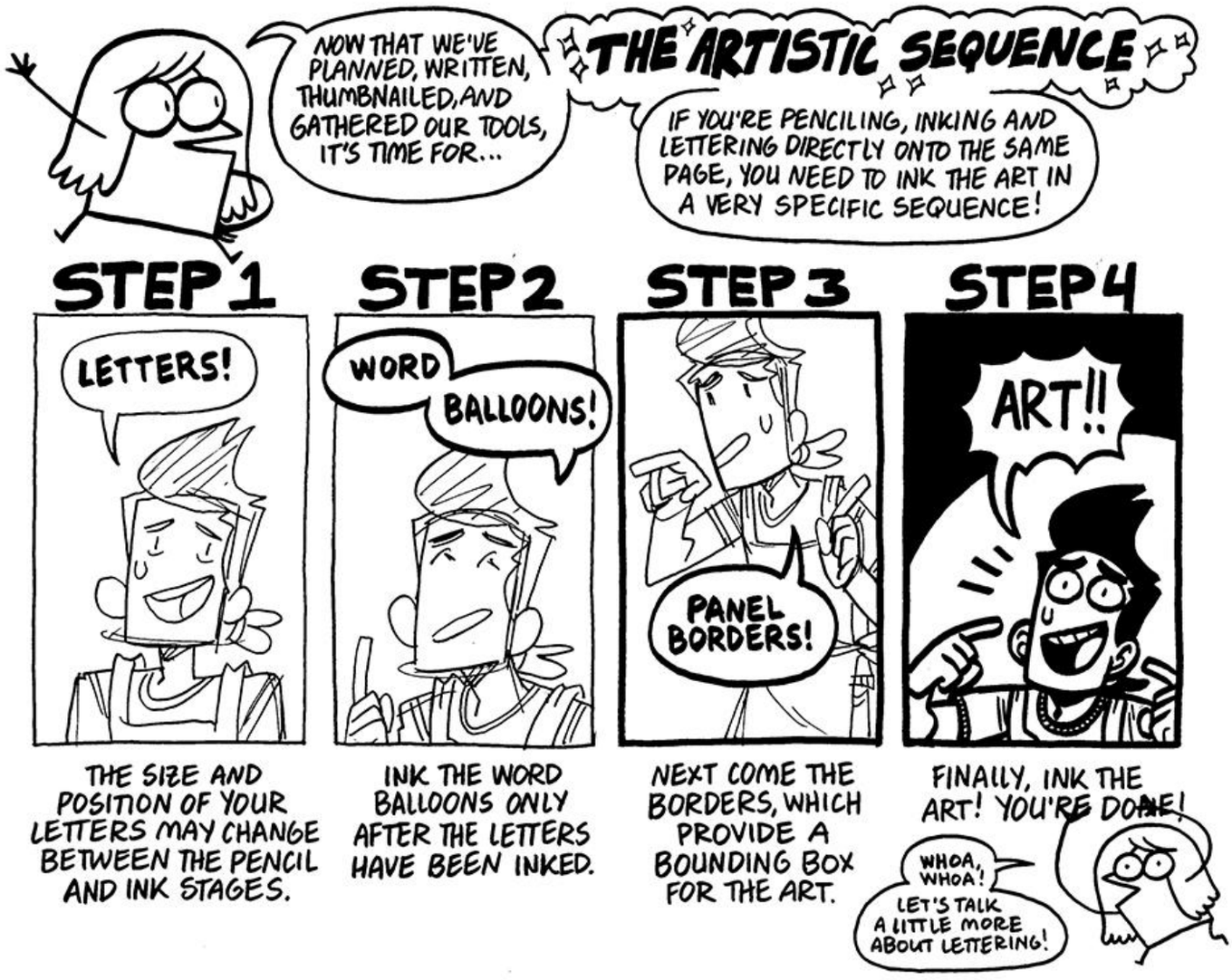


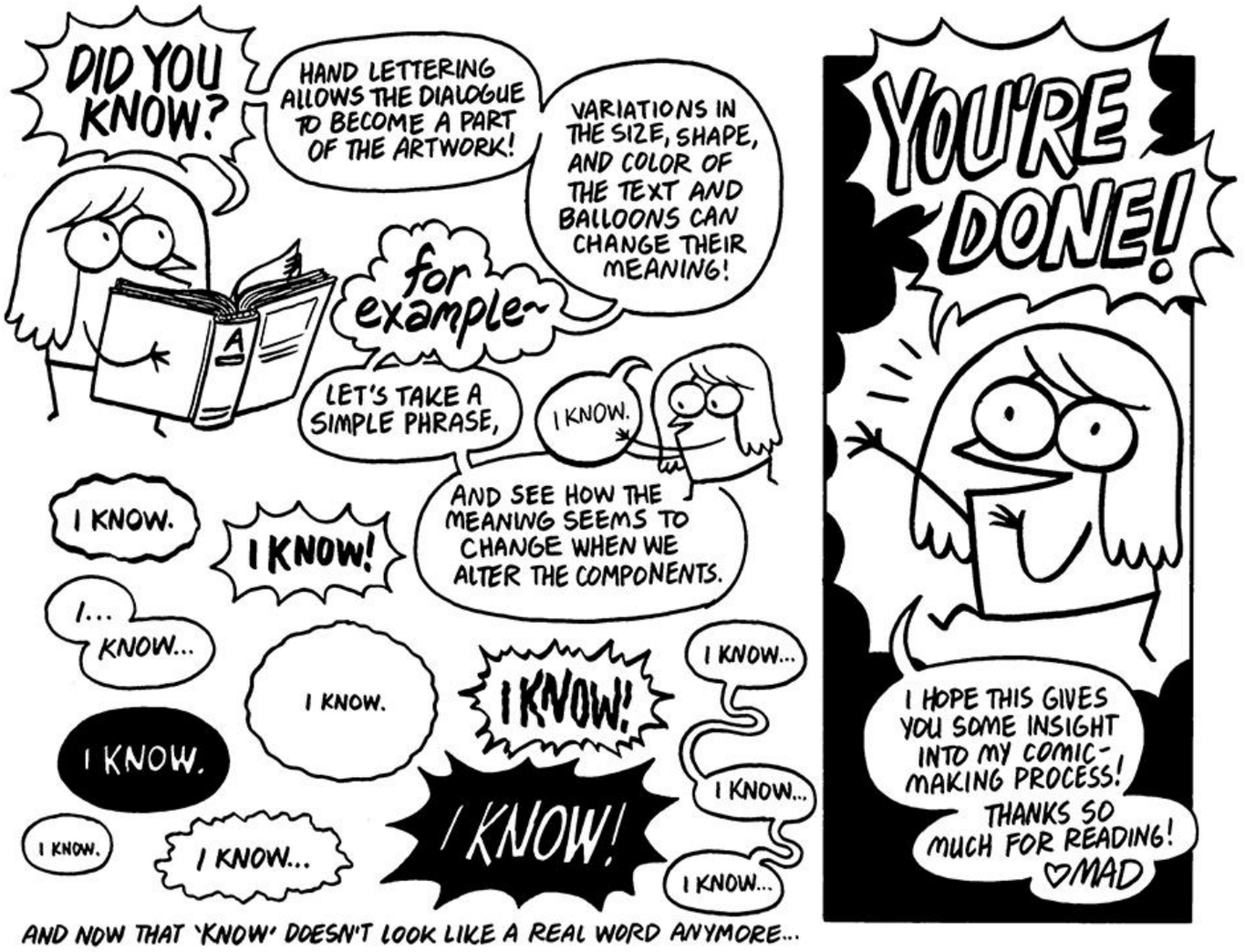
3. 4. 5. 6.

1. A SIMPLE MECHANICAL PENCIL! NO FRILLS HERE.
2. WHITE PLASTIC ERASER FOR MISTAKES/CLEANUP.
3. PENTEL SIGN PEN (ST150) FOR PANEL BORDERS.
4. PAPER MATE FLAIR (M) FOR LETTERING.
5. KURETAKE FUDEGOKOCHI BRUSH PEN (REGULAR.) - PRIMARY INKING PEN SINCE CHAPTER 13.
6. KURETAKE 55 DOUBLE-SIDED BRUSH PEN - INKING/LETTERING PEN FROM CHAPTERS 1-12 - NOW USED FOR SPOT-BLACKS AND SFX.
7. A 24" RULER FOR PANEL BORDERS.






NOW THAT WE'VE PLANNED, WRITTEN, THUMBNAILED, AND GATHERED OUR TOOLS, IT'S TIME FOR...
THE ARTISTIC SEQUENCE
IF YOU'RE PENCILING, INKING AND LETTERING DIRECTLY ONTO THE SAME PAGE, YOU NEED TO INK THE ART IN A VERY SPECIFIC SEQUENCE!
STEP 1
LETTERS!
THE SIZE AND POSITION OF YOUR LETTERS MAY CHANGE BETWEEN THE PENCIL AND INK STAGES.
STEP 2
WORD BALLOONS!
INK THE WORD BALLOONS ONLY AFTER THE LETTERS HAVE BEEN INKED.
STEP 3
PANEL BORDERS!
NEXT COME THE BORDERS, WHICH PROVIDE A BOUNDING BOX FOR THE ART.
STEP 4
ART!!
FINALLY, INK THE ART! YOU'RE DONE!
WHOA, WHOA! LET'S TALK A LITTLE MORE ABOUT LETTERING!


DID YOU KNOW?
HAND LETTERING ALLOWS THE DIALOGUE TO BECOME A PART OF THE ARTWORK!
VARIATIONS IN THE SIZE, SHAPE, AND COLOR OF THE TEXT AND BALLOONS CAN CHANGE THEIR MEANING!
for example~
LET'S TAKE A SIMPLE PHRASE,
I KNOW.
AND SEE HOW THE MEANING SEEMS TO CHANGE WHEN WE ALTER THE COMPONENTS.
I KNOW.
I KNOW!
I... KNOW...
I KNOW.
I KNOW.
I KNOW!
I KNOW...
I KNOW...
I KNOW.
I KNOW...
I KNOW!
I KNOW...
AND NOW THAT 'KNOW' DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A REAL WORD ANYMORE...
YOU'RE DONE!
I HOPE THIS GIVES YOU SOME INSIGHT INTO MY COMIC-MAKING PROCESS!
THANKS SO MUCH FOR READING!
♡MAD

SAKANA

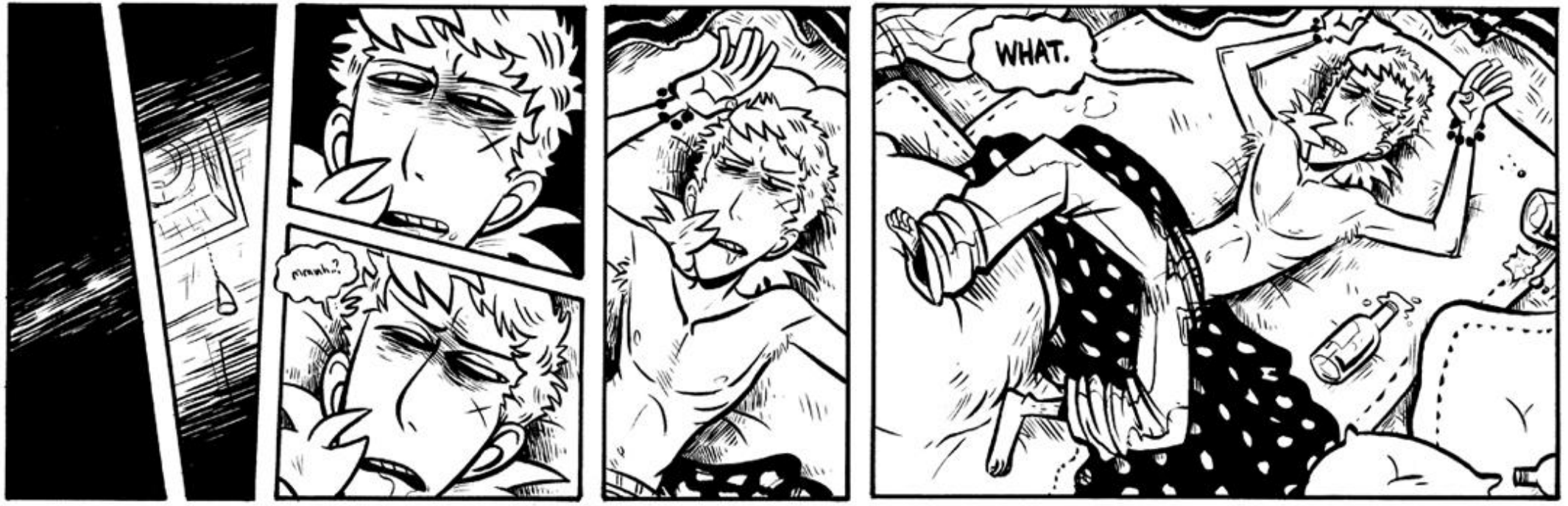
MAD RUPERT

VOL.2

NAME: CHIE YAMAMOTO
DOB: MAY 28
AGE: 22

KEEPS EVERYBODY GUESSING.

CHAPTER: IX


mmmh..?
WHAT.

...
uh...
T...THIS ISN'T MY APARTMENT ...
A-AND WHY DOES MY HEAD HURT SO MUCH?!
AND WHERE'S MY SHIRT?!
!!!!!
HmRmph..

uurgh...
...YUUD—
BAP

WHERE AM I
WHERE DID YOU TAKE ME
Y-YUUDAI!
WHERE IS THIS WHERE IS MY SHIR
YUUDAI, IT'S OKAY!! YOU JUST GOT REALLY DRUNK LAST NIGHT!
YOU'RE AT MY APARTMENT!
HOLY SHIT, DID...
DID WE...
...ALL GET REALLY DRUNK?
-OH.
YEAH.
OH... OKAY...
WHAT WERE YOU GONNA SAY—
WHERE'S MY SHIRT.
WHA- DO YO
WHERE IS MY SHIRT?!?

AH MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT LAST NIGHT!
I HAVEN'T HAD THAT MUCH FUN IN FOREVER!
YOU'RE REALLY WACKY WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK!
AHAHA!
WE SHOULD ALL GO OUT MORE OFTEN!
NO, WE SHOULDN'T.
ARE YOU GETTING ME A SHIRT?
UH, YEAH..
THIS MIGHT BE A BIT... BIG ON YOU.
IT'S FINE.
BESIDES, I'M TALLER THAN YOU.
WELL YEAH, BUT THAT'S NOT MY—
OH GOSH, THERE HE GOES.
WHAT THE HELL?!

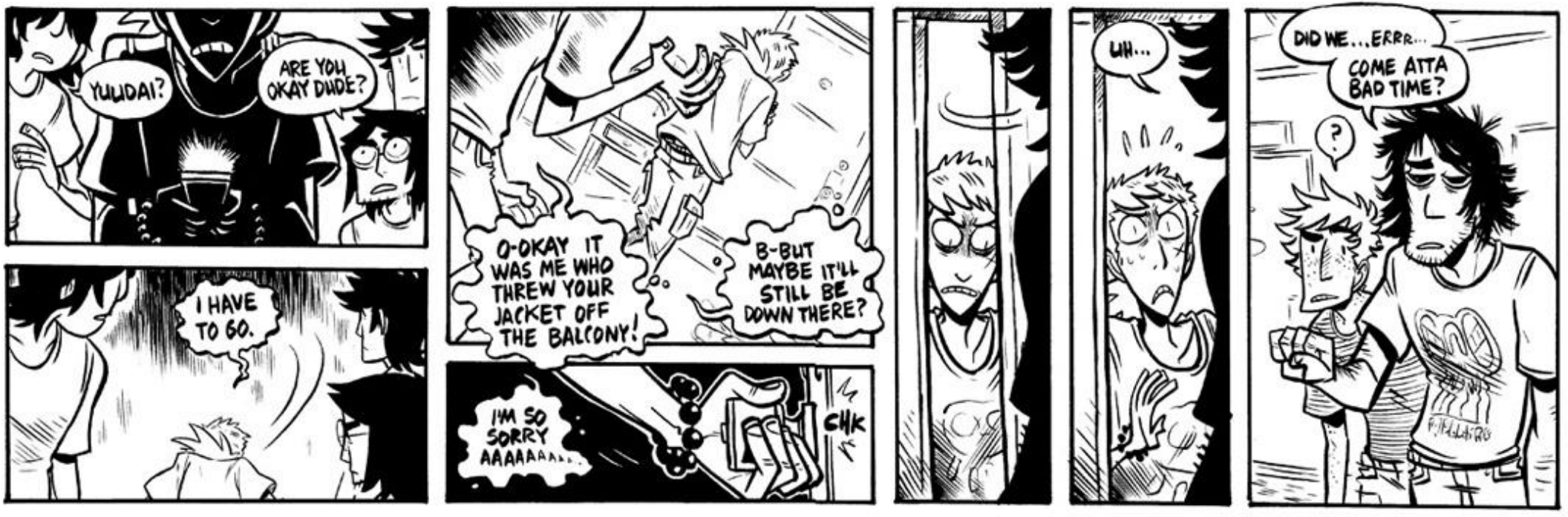
I-IM SUCH A B-B-BIG CLUMSY IDIOT!!
HOW CAN ANYBODY ST-STT- wuhh..
-STAND TO BE AROUND MEeeee...
GETTING STUFF OFF HIGH SHELVES?
TARO!!
Buhhhuh =hic= unh..
OH, WE MANAGE.
AND YOU'RE NOT AN IDIOT.
YOU PAY MOST OF THE RENT.
CLICK CLICK
BU-BUT I'M SO BIG AND I BREAK STUFF CUZ I'M SO BIG.
WHAT AM I EVEN GOOD FOR Wuhuhhm...
BUHHL
CUT IT OUT!
HUHL
Buh wh
YOU KNOW HOW HE GETS WHEN HE'S HUNG OVER!
WELL HE IS BIG AND CLUMSY!
I'M NOT GONNA LIE TO HIM!

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE UPSET ABOUT, TAI!
B-BUT I DID SO MANY DUMB THINGS LAST NIGHT!
WE ALL DID!
IT WAS FUN!
WHAT DID YOU DO THAT WAS SO DUMB?
?
I DIDN'T STOP YUUDAI WHEN HE THREW HIS SHIRT OVER THE FENCE AT THE ZOO...
I REMEMBER THAT!! HA HA HA!
THAT'S OKAY!
I LENT HIM ONE OF YOUR SHIRTS!
OR WHEN HE THREW HIS JACKET OFF THE BALCONY.
UH..
OR WHEN HE PUT HIS PHONE IN THE FRIDGE.
OH.

OH MY GOD, WHAT EVEN HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?!
WHY DID I PUT MY PHONE IN THE FRIDGE?!
u-uhh..
WHY DID YOU LET ME PUT MY PHONE IN THE FRIDGE?!
aaa im sorry
HA! FOUND IT!
DOES IT STILL WORK?!
hmm.
BP
BP
BP
BP
WAP
WAP
WAP
WAP
IT WORKS!
BOOP

W-WELL THAT'S GOOD NEWS!
B-BUT SERIOUSLY, IF IT'S BROKEN I COULD GET YOU A NEW ONE...
TH-I-- THAT'S ALRIGHT...
WOW, YUHDAI!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO POPULAR!
PH... POPULAR?
YOU'VE GOT 53 UNREAD TEXT MESSAGES, DUDE!
...TEXTS?
IT LOOKS LIKE...
THEY'RE ALL FROM THE SAME PERSON?
SNIPE!!

YUUDAI?
ARE YOU OKAY?
BOOP
TASAKI
DID U RLY MEAN W/ U SAID LAST NITE
10:01
9:45
9:37
HEY!!!
O-Ohh...
OH-
DID U RLY U SAID
OH SHIT.


YUUDAI?
ARE YOU OKAY DUDE?
I HAVE TO GO.
O-OKAY IT WAS ME WHO THREW YOUR JACKET OFF THE BALCONY!
B-BUT MAYBE IT'LL STILL BE DOWN THERE?
I'M SO SORRY AAAAAAAAA...
CHK
UH...
DID WE...ERRR...
COME ATTA BAD TIME?
?

WOW, YUUDAI??
WHAT 'R YOU DOIN' HERE?
I AIN'T SEEN YOU OUT AN' ABOUT SINCE—
BMP
WUT'S UP WITH HIM?
I DUNNO, MAN. YOU KNOW HOW HE IS..
RODE.
HE GOT SOME TEXTS ON HIS PHONE, AND THEN HE BOLTED!
OH..
THAT AIN'T GOOD...

DIDN'T YOU TWO USE TO BE PRETTY GOOD FRIENDS?
AH, WELL, WE DON'T GET MUCH TIME TO CHAT CUZ'A THE SUSHI STALL.
IT'S LIKE HE'S BEEN ACTIVELY AVOIDING. YOU, THOUGH.
LIKE, MORE SO THAN HE AVOIDS US.
YEAH? I DUNNO.
!
?
?

IT SURE WAS NICE'A YOU GUYS TO HANG WITH JAN TODAY.
HE AIN'T HAD MUCH TIME T'MAKE FRIENDS YET.
ME'N TARD GOTTA CHAT FOR A BIT.
SO YA'LL HAVE TONS'A FUN'TILL WE GET BACK.
UHH...HOW LONG YOU [redacted] DONE XXXX?
TOSS
SURE, BUD.
B-BOOST SADIOSLY SHIGERU,
I COULD JOSE STOY IN APTAXXXNT TIDD YOU OAT...
UH...
UH...
W-WAIT A MINUTE!
SHIGERU, WHO IS THIS?!
WOO ARE TOBS O[redacted]YS?!
WHERE ARE YOU TWO GOING?!
?
TARO!!
JIRO, YOU ARE MY FAVORITE BROTHER.
YER A SWELL GUY, JIRO.
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.
I'M YOUR ONLY BROTHER.
SLAM!

YOU FORGOT TO TELL 'EM I WUZ COMIN' OVER, HUH?
IT WAS A BUSY DAY YESTERDAY!
HOW'D IT GO WITH JIRO'S LADY FRIEND?
IS THAT RIGHT!
WELL... I GUESS THEY'RE DATING NOW?
GOOD FOR HIM!
AND WHY WUZ YUUDAI THERE?
EXIT
MAN, I'M STILL NOT SURE.
SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE FIXIN'T' HAVE A NICE LONG CHAT!
YEAH! I'M SURE JIRO AND TAISEI AND JAN WILL BE FINE.
I MEAN U GXUXYS SEEM □XCE XXXX N OK BUOT MD...
JXXAE□GONES NOT ♡ERXX GAD IT KON□ OF EMBAGXING
BAXX X!
...
HE PROBABLY HATES ME NOW AND WE JUST MET YESTERDAY!
HOW COULD I DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT ?!?!
IT WAS PROBABLY HIS FAVORITE JACKET!
I'M AWFUL.

SO...I'M JIRO SAKANA.
JØBRO.
AND YOU'RE ...JAN?
AH...YØS!
SHIGERU! AH...HE WORKS ON SAKANA SUSHI WAT MØ AN HE VARØEY NICE!
VARØEY, UH.. XXXXOOXXOL, COOD GUY!
AN YOO, UH TARO'S, AH... BOOODER??
OK!
THIS GUY IS TAISE! TACHIBANA!
HELLOOOOO..
SO...HOW DO YOU KNOW SHIGERU?
WE ROOX MØBTS!
BOR...DER?
BOURØØDER?
BOR...UH..?
NNGH!-HIS, UH... ODDER BOY IN FØØMLI...?
OTTER... FAME?
Y'KNOW WHAT, LET'S JUST WATCH A MOVIE!
PAMP

OKAY, THESE ARE ALL THE MOVIES WE HAVE.
WARRIORS IN A FIELD
SUPER SENTAI FIREFIGHTERS
YOU'RE THE GUEST, SO YOU CAN PICK!
ALL THE CARTOONS ARE TAISEI'S.
AH, WHOA THESE?
THAT'S TAISEI'S TOO.
HYPER
IT'S, UH... AN AMERICAN MOVIE?
YEAH! "HARD 2 DIE!"
THE 2 MEANS IT'S THE SEQUEL!
IT'S GOT SUBTITLES, RIGHT?
YEP!
SO HOW DO YOU SAY THAT TITLE IN ENGLISH?
"HARD 2 DIE!"

WOW.
HEY!
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MOVIE?
ISN'T IT AWESOME?!
WΩΒT, UH...
»DUDE,«
»CAN YOU, LIKE...«
»SPEAK ENGLISH?«
OH! UH...
»YES!«
»I'M FLUENT!«
WHAT IS HAPPENING.

SO IT TURNS OUT TO BE THIS LITTLE DEMON GIRL FROM HIS PRESCHOOL!
AND HE STILL WANTS TO DATE HER!
DON'T YOU THINK I SHOULD DO SOMETHING?

LISSEN, TARO.
IF I TOLD M'SISTERS WHO THEY SHOULD BE DATIN' I'D GET AN EAR FULLA SASS AN' A PURSE T'THE FACE, ALRIGHT?

I KNOW JIRO'S A BIT ... DELICATE, BUT...
RIGHT!! HE NEEDS SOMEBODY SAFE!

HE NEEDS T'FIGER IT OUT FER HIMSELF.
WELL.. DO I NEED TO LIKE IT?!
OH, NO! A'COURSE NOT!
NOOGIE~

Y'JUS GOTTA INTERNALIZE ALLA YER DISAPPROVAL.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND HEALTHY.
YOU'LL BE THANKIN' ME AT FAMILY GATHERINS.

WELL IF THAT'S THE CASE,
YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME ADVICE ON GETTING ALONG WITH GENJI.
I'VE FOUND THE EASIEST WAY T'GET ALONG WITH GENJI IS T'STAY OUTTA HIS WAY.
HE'S ALL BARK AN' NO BITE.
IT DIDN'T USE TO BE LIKE THAT.
FLICK
WE USED TO PICK ALL KINDS OF FIGHTS WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER.
AND WE'D FINISH 'EM TOO!
NOBODY MESSED WITH US!!
BUT NOWADAYS,
I MEAN...
WE WERE YOUNGER THEN!
I GOT OUTTA THAT!
HE HELPED ME GET OUTTA THAT!
AND NOW HE JUST LORDS IT OVER MY HEAD WHEN HE NEEDS A FEW BUCKS.

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY HE NEVER GOT OUT OF IT.
HMM.
MAYBE HE ALREADY OWED SOME FOLKS MONEY AT THAT POINT.
Y'EVER THINK OF IT THAT WAY?
YEAH.
IN ANY CASE, I DON'T THINK HE'S MUCH ENJOYIN' HIMSELF.
CUZ THE ONLY PEOPLE HE PALS 'ROUND WITH THESE DAYS...
ARE TH' ALL BITE AN' NO BARK KIND.

YOU REALLY THINK IT'S GOTTEN THAT BAD?
YOU AIN'T NOTICED ALL TH'THUGS SNOOPIN' 'ROUND TH'MARKET LATELY?
THEY BEEN SWARMIN' NEAR TH'SUSHI STALL.
THOUGHT FER SURE THEY'D BE O'ER YER WAY TOO.
WELL, I'M USUALLY IN THE BACK.
I DON'T SEE MUCH.
JIRO SEEN ANYTHIN'?
HE HASN'T MENTIONED ANYTHING...
BUT I CAN ASK...
YUUDAI?
HAH!!
AFTER LAST NIGHT HE'S PROBABLY GONNA TRY TO FIRE ME.

YOU COULD ASK YUUDAI?
HE AIN'T SPEAKIN'T'ME, REMEMBER?
MAN, WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU GUYS?
FLICK
YOU WERE LIKE... HALFWAY FRIENDS,
AND THEN HE GOT THAT SCRATCH ON HIS FACE AND-
WAIT-
Y'DIDN'T CALL IT A SCRATCH TO HIS FACE,
DID YOU?
W-WELL I MEAN...
I MIGHT HAVE..
Y'KNOW, I GUESS...
I MEAN,
HE WAS BEING DIFFICULT!
WE WERE ARGUING!
AND I MIGHT HAVE MAYBE SAID IT...
TARO, YER SO BAD AT THIS!!!
NOOGIE
NOOGIE

JEEZE!!
WELL HOW'D HE GET IT THEN?!

THAT AIN'T MY BUSINESS TO TELL.
WHAT!!
YOU CAN'T GIMME GRIEF THEN NOT TELL ME!!

ASK 'IM YERSELF IF YER SO CURIOUS!
JUST MAKE SURE YOU APOLERGIZE TOMORRER, ALRIGHT?
CLEAR THE AIR.

HMPH.

WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?
T'GET MORE SMOKES.
Y'ALL ARE STRESSIN' ME OUT.

NAME: MORIKO YAMAMOTO
DOB: MAY 15
AGE: 28

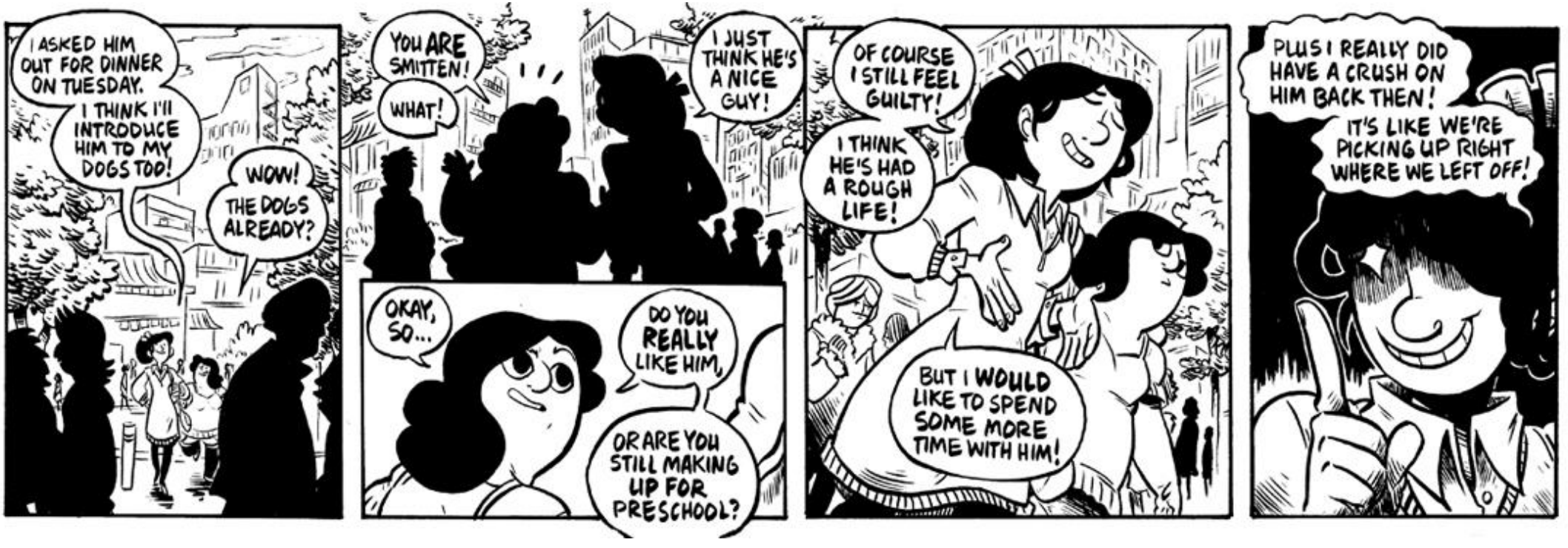
A WILLFUL CONTRARIAN.

CHAPTER: X

I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE SOME INFORMATION.
Cafe
THAT GREATLY INTERESTS ME, MISS YAMAMOTO.
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD KEEP ME IN THE DARK!
OH, DID I?
BUT I'M GOING TO PRY THE ANSWERS OUT OF YOU,
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
Slllllgh-
IF YOU MUST.
OKAY, SO, DID HE SWEEP YOU OFF YOUR FEET,
OR DID YOU SWEEP HIM OFF HIS??

C'MON, SANGO! I JUST—
NO, NO, WAIT!!!
DON'T TELL ME!
I'M GOING TO GUESS!
HMMM..
YOU WOOED THAT BOY,
DIDN'T YOU, CHIE.
HE SEEMED PRETTY AFFECTED BY ME...
I'M FORMING A MENTAL IMAGE OF YOU TWO AS FATED LOVERS...
MEETING ON THE HARAJUKU BRIDGE AT DUSK...
HE THREW UP OVER THAT BRIDGE.
DON'T RUIN THIS FOR ME, CHIE.

SO HE DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHO YOU WERE?
NOPE, HE JUST WANTED TO ASK ME ON A DATE!
ISN'T THAT THE CUTEST THING YOU'VE EVER HEARD?
NOOOO! THAT'S SO LAME!!
HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN PINING AFTER YOU FOR YEARS OR SOMETHING!
BUT INSTEAD HE NOTICED ME FROM AFAR IN A BUSY MARKET~
TOO SHY TO SAY ANYTHING, HE BEGAN BUILDING THE COURAGE TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE~
AND THEN, WITH A LITTLE PUSH FROM YOURS TRULY, HE FINALLY CONFESSED HIS LOVE~
NOW THE FATED LOVERS ARE TOGETHER AT LAST~♡
...
DANG, THAT IS CUTE.


I ASKED HIM OUT FOR DINNER ON TUESDAY.
I THINK I'LL INTRODUCE HIM TO MY DOGS TOO!
WOW! THE DOGS ALREADY?
YOU ARE SMITTEN!
WHAT!
I JUST THINK HE'S A NICE GUY!
OKAY, SO...
DO YOU REALLY LIKE HIM,
OR ARE YOU STILL MAKING UP FOR PRESCHOOL?
OF COURSE I STILL FEEL GUILTY!
I THINK HE'S HAD A ROUGH LIFE!
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND SOME MORE TIME WITH HIM!
PLUS I REALLY DID HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM BACK THEN!
IT'S LIKE WE'RE PICKING UP RIGHT WHERE WE LEFT OFF!

CHIE!
DON'T MAKE SUCH WEIRD FACES, YOU CREEP!
HAHAHA~
I FEEL SORRY FOR THIS GUY ALREADY!
SO, DOES YOUR CHARMING MAN HAVE ANY CUTE FRIENDS?
HMM-
WELL HE DOES HAVE A FRIEND THAT...
UH...
WAIT...
PLEASE DON'T STEP ON ME!
I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MY LEGS!
SORRY
ENOUGH ABOUT ME, LET'S GO SEE WHAT MY SISTER'S UP TO!
NO FAIR! WHO WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
ZIP

Y'KNOW, WHEN YOU SAID YOUR SISTER WAS COMING TO STAY WITH YOU, I EXPECTED HER TO MOVE INTO YOUR APARTMENT...
All my Buds flower shop
GRAND OPENING!
NOT OPEN A FLOWER SHOP TWO BLOCKS AWAY.
I GUESS SHE MEANT SHE WAS COMING TO STAY NEAR ME.
AH.
SHE CAN BE A LITTLE VAGUE SOMETIMES.
I'LL MAKE A NOTE OF THAT.
LOOKS LIKE THE STORE'S STILL CLOSED.
BUT IT'S AFTER LUNCH!
WHERE IS SHE?
OH THERE SHE IS!
WHERE?
ASLEEP IN THAT CHAIR BEHIND THE COUNTER!

SNeeeee...

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
SSNRNGK!?!

HERE SHE COMES!

HEY, SIS! HOW'S BUSINESS TODAY?

Mmuhm...

SHAK

WOW! IT'S BEAUTIFUL IN HERE!
BUT WHY AREN'T YOU LETTING PEOPLE IN?
TCH!-
CUZ' IT'S NOT READY YET!
...
WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?
THIS IS MY FRIEND, SANGO IIJIMA!
SHE WORKS AT THE FISH MARKET TOO!
I SELL RESTAURANT SUPPLIES!
IF I MEET ONE MORE PERSON FROM THAT MARKET,
I'M GONNA SLAM MY HEAD IN A DOOR.

I'VE BEEN PREPPING THE STORE FOR TWO DAYS STRAIGHT.
shffs
BUT SINCE I'M AWAKE NOW,
I SHOULD GET BACK TO WORK.
THERE'S TEA AND LEFTOVER CURRY IN THE FRIDGE.
UPSTAIRS AND TO THE LEFT.
HELP YOURSELF.
WOW, THERE'S A WHOLE APARTMENT!
DO YOU LIVE HERE?
OF COURSE I DO!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA LIVE WITH CHIE!
I LOVE MY SISTER, BUT I'M A GROWN-ASS WOMAN!
AND I CAN LIVE JUST FINE ON MY OWN!
NO MATTER WHAT MY CHEATING-
PUNK-ASS-
IDIOT EX-FIANCE SAYS.
NO
NOW I WANT CURRY.

SO, WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO OPEN A FLOWER SHOP, MORI?
WOW, YOU ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS.
I MEAN, BEING SURROUNDED BY FLOWERS ALL DAY SOUNDS SO ROMANTIC!
BUT YOU...
chew
chew
chew
DON'T SEEM TO BE INTO THAT.
MORI'S BEEN INTERESTED IN FLOWERS SINCE WE WERE LITTLE GIRLS!
SHE'S WON ALL KINDS OF AWARDS FOR GROWING AND ARRANGING THEM!
SHE EVEN WENT TO SCHOOL FOR HORTICULTURE!
WOW!
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT FLOWERS, MORI?
FRAGILE
FLOWERS DON'T BETRAY YOU.

SO IF I WORK ALL NIGHT TONIGHT, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN TOMORROW,
SEE HOW IT GOES FOR A FEW DAYS,
THEN CELEBRATE THE OPENING TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY NIGHT.
I CAN'T DO TUESDAY.
I'M GOING ON A DATE WITH JIRO.
UGH, YOU'RE SEEING THAT CREEPY PIPSQUEAK AGAIN?!
HE'S NOT CREEPY!
HE'S SUPER CREEPY.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM, MORI!
YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT IF YOU HAVEN'T SPENT ANY TIME WITH HIM!
THAT'S JUST UNFAIR!
HMPH.
WELL, THEN I'LL COME WITH!

WHY WOULD YOU COME ON MY DATE?
WHAT BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE MY STORE OPENING,
THAN BY GETTING TO KNOW MY LITTLE SISTER'S NEW BOYFRIEND!
CLATT
WE CAN EVEN BRING TEENY PEANUT HERE!
YEAH!
ZIP
HEY.
YOU'RE JUST GONNA BE MEAN TO HIM.
NONSENSE!
THE VERY THOUGHT!
I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE HE'S TOTALLY COMMITTED TO DATING YOU!
AND WON'T THROW YOUR LOVE AWAY THE MINUTE SOME TRAMP WITH SMALLER PANTIES COMES ALONG.
AND TELL HIM TO BRING A CUTE GUY FOR ME TOO!

I DON'T KNOW.
I THINK HE'D BE PRETTY INTIMIDATED IF ALL THREE OF US SHOWED UP...
DON'T YOU THINK HE'D BE MORE INTIMIDATED...
IF THE TWO OF YOU WERE ~*ALONE*~
TELL HIM TO BRING A FRIEND FOR PEANUT!
MAKE IT A DOUBLE DATE!
WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?
ME?
I'LL BE THERE TO LIVEN UP THE PARTY!

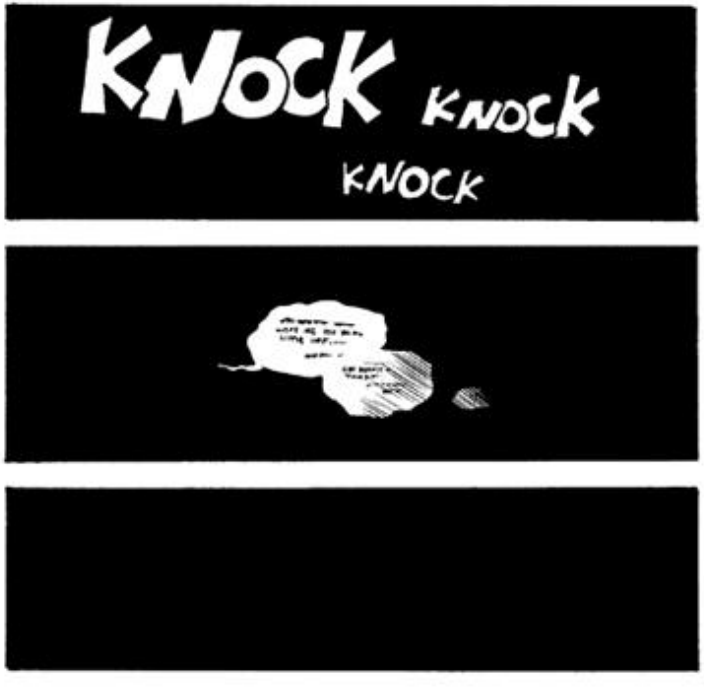
SCF
SCF
SCF
SCF
KREEEEEE
SLAM

himé
MOW.
ch-click
!
SLAM
MOW!
OW!
WOW!
OW!
MOW!
MOW!
MOW!
OW!
OOOH, I KNOW, PRINCESS.
YOU MUST BE SO HUNGRY.
I'M SORRY.
Prrr
mmmr
mow
wow
mow wow
ow Prrr
wow mow
prrr mrrr
rrrm
DADDY HAD A BAD NIGHT.
Mrr
Prr wow
Prrr mow
mmrrr
Prrr
ow

AND SO JIRO'S LIKE, "Dhhuhh. JUST ONE DRINK YUUDA!."
OW!
MOW!
BUT THEN THE BIG LOUD GUY BUYS ME, LIKE, ONE BILLION DRINKS.
AND I MEAN, LIKE...
MMRRT!
POK!
LIKE, IT WAS REALLY AWKWARD....
BUT AFTER A WHILE IT WAS JUST...
REALLY...
NICE...
CUZ I WAS DRUNK...
LIKE... SUPER DRUNK.
MOWW OW!
WELL I KNOW THAT DOESNT....
SOUND TERRIBLE...
BUT I GUESS...
AT SOME POINT I MUST'VE...
UUUGH..
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...
GOD...
FLIP

18:15
OUTBOX
1 SENT MESSAGE
SUNDAY
1:01
TO: TASAK
. . . .
OW!
MOW!
NO, I'M NOT GONNA READ IT!!!
I DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHAT DUMB, DRUNK-ASS YUUDAI WANTED TO SAY.
PURRRRRR-
♡MOW
I MEAN...
WHAT KIND OF PATHETIC LOSER DRUNK-TEXTS HIS-
MRRRRRR
BOOP

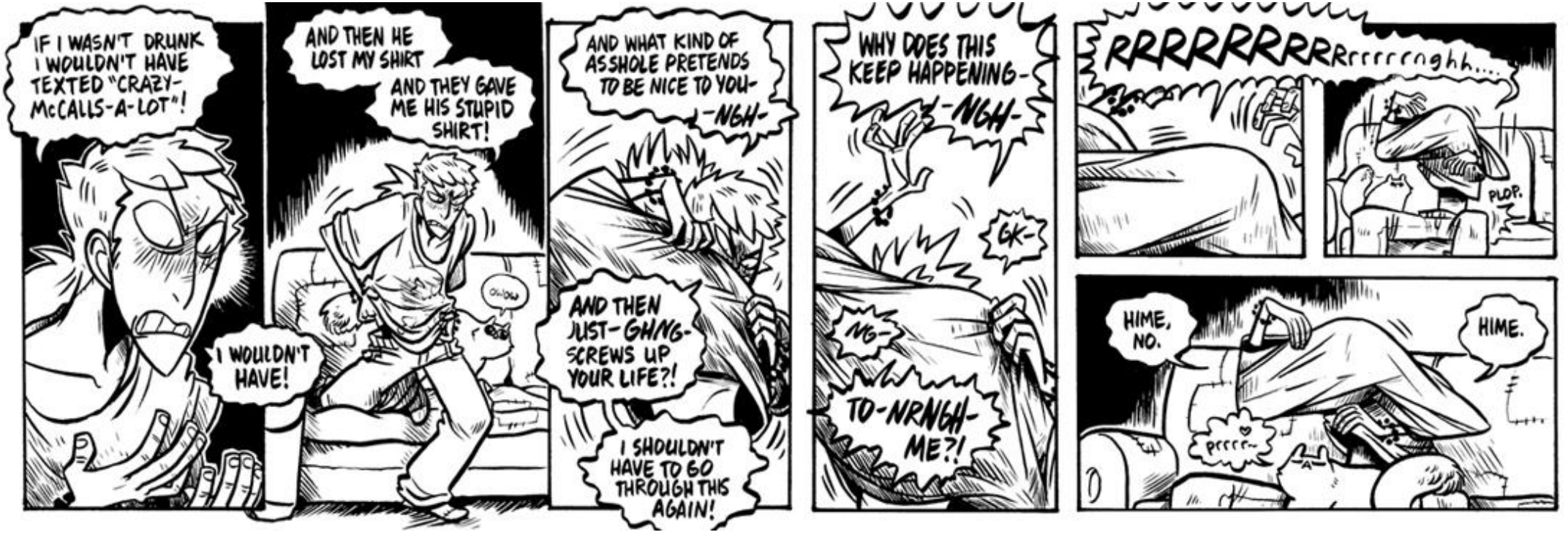
STOP
STOP
STOPPP...
WHY DID I TEXT YOU...
BOOP
WHY DID I TEXT YOOOOU...
INBOX
76 MESSAGES
SUNDAY 18:27
R U @ HOME RITE NOW??/ Y/N
TASAK
KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
Click.


KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK

CLICK
OW.
MOW.

SIGHHhhh...

I'M SO PATHETIC.
WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER GOING OUT.
I ONLY KNOW HOW TO SELL FISH.
THAT'S ALL I'M GOOD
MOW!
WOW!
NO, HIME. DADDY'S PATHETIC AND HE DOESN'T DESERVE YOUR LOVE.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT THE STALL YESTERDAY.
JIRO DIDN'T EVEN BLOW IT.
AND TARO HIT ME.
AND THE GIANT WITH THE MAGIC WALLET JUST...
WAS WEIRD AND LOUD.
AND TOUCHY.
AND IF I HADN'T LEFT THE STALL WITH THOSE IDIDTS...
I WOULDN'T BE HIDING IN MY ROOM RIGHT NOW!
AND IF THAT BIG WEIRDO HADN'T BOUGHT ME THOSE DRINKS AND GOTTEN ME DRUNK...
HE...
HE RUINED EVERYTHING.


IF I WASN'T DRUNK I WOULDN'T HAVE TEXTED "CRAZY-McCALLS-A-LOT"!
I WOULDN'T HAVE!
AND THEN HE LOST MY SHIRT
AND THEY GAVE ME HIS STUPID SHIRT!
AND WHAT KIND OF ASSHOLE PRETENDS TO BE NICE TO YOU-
-NGH-
AND THEN JUST-GH/NG-SCREWS UP YOUR LIFE?!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN!
WHY DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING-
-NGH-
GK-
NG-
TO-NRNGH-ME?!
RRRRRRRRRrrrrrrnghh....
PLOP.
HIME, NO.
HIME.
prrrr~

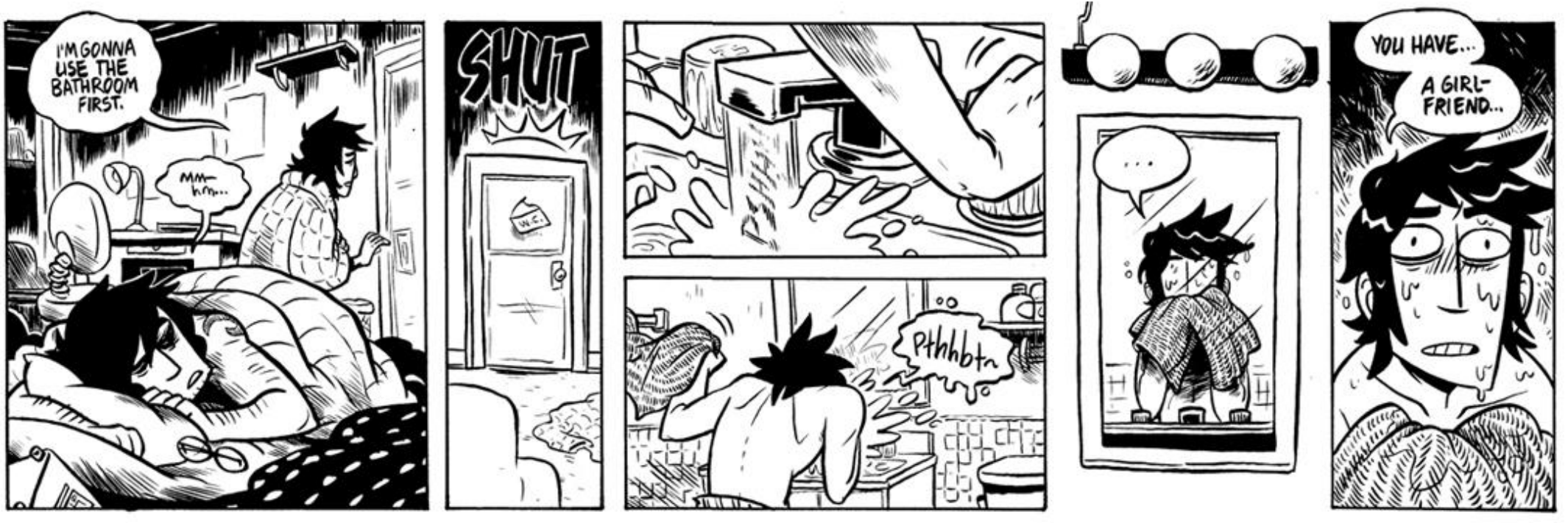
OKAY.
MOW!
YOU CAN SIT BY DADDY'S FEET.
UGH! THIS THING'S LIKE A MAZE!
HOW CAN SOMEONE BE SO...
HUGE?!
THAT'S WEIRD, RIGHT?
WHAT, DOES IT SMELL FUNNY?
sniff sniff
SHOULD I THROW IT A-
A-HAH!!
ZOOP
MOW-OW.
HA
HIP—
YOU'RE NOT HELPING AT ALL.

NAME: SANGO IIJIMA
DOB: JANUARY 21
AGE: 19

ALL ROMANCE ALL
THE TIME.

CHAPTER: XI

...
4:29
AM:■
PM:□
BEEP BEEP
BEEP
4:30
CK
BEEP
BEEP BEEP
KA-BAM
4:30
AM:■
PM:□
SKRRT
TARO...
...DID YOU PUNCH THE CLOCK AGAIN?
mnugh...


I'M GONNA USE THE BATHROOM FIRST.
MM-hm...
SHUT
W.C.
PSHHH
Pthhbtn
...
YOU HAVE...
A GIRL-FRIEND...

BUT...
IS SHE MY GIRLFRIEND?
DID THAT ACTUALLY HAPPEN?
YESTERDAY WAS SO HAZY...
EVERYTHING SEEMED TO TURN OUT OKAY, THOUGH.
IN ANY CASE...
SHE IS A GIRL, AND...
SHE'S... MY FRIEND?
SO TECHNICALLY SHE QUALIFIES ANYWAY...
blubrghhh
B-BUT I GUESS WE CAN TALK MORE TODAY...
AND WE HAVE A, UM...
A DATE ON TUESDAY...?
MAYBE?
I-I'LL JUST... I'LL RECONFIRM JUST TO BE SURE.
WOW, THIS IS EITHER GONNA BE THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE,
OR THE WORST DAY.

PAP
AAAA

I-I'M SORRY! I SCARED YOU!
THAT'S OKAY, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE UP!
WAIT... WHY ARE YOU UP?
YOU DON'T HAVE WORK 'TILL EIGHT!
OH... I, WANTED TO GIVE YOU SOME MONEY...
HERE.
WHAT'S THIS FOR?
I WANTED TO REPAY YU— UH, TANAKA FOR LOSING HIS SHIRT.
OH! UH...
OKAY?
WHAT?
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU CRASHED YOUR MOPED INTO THE BIKE RACK AGAIN.
H-HERE'S SOME MORE!

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING OUT HERE?
UH... TAI'S GIVING ME SOME MONEY FOR YUUDAI.
YUUDAI? WHY?
TARD...
SO HE DOESN'T HATE ME!!
HE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR LOSING YUUDAI'S SHIRT THE OTHER DAY...
SO HE'S... ASKING US TO GIVE YUUDAI THE MONEY...
PFFFT!!
OH MY GOD, REALLY?
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH, TAISEI!
HA HA HA HA HA
YUUDAI ALREADY HATES YOU!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!

R-REALLY?
BUT WHY?
W-WELL DON'T TAKE IT SO PERSONALLY, TAISEI!
HE HATES EVERYBODY!
I THINK THAT'S THE FIRST TIME HE'S LAUGHED AT SOMETHING THAT WASN'T OUR EXPENSE.
'COURSE HE'D HAD LIKE FIVE SHOTS AT THAT POINT, BUT...
NORMALLY HE'S JUST A JACKASS.
BUT... WE ALL HAD SO MUCH FUN ON SATURDAY.
...
WELL, I'LL BE IN THE SHOWER.
GOOD LUCK.
PAT

DO YOU THINK HE REALLY HATES ME?
DOES HE HATE YOU GUYS?
I...DON'T THINK HE REALLY HATES US.
BUT HE DEFINITELY DOESN'T LIKE US...
HE'S JUST KINDA...
PRICKLY.
HAS HE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT?
WELL, YEAH! I MEAN...
IT'S LIKE HE GETS WORSE EVERY YEAR!
WHY'S THAT?
I DUNNO, TAI.
THAT'S JUST THE WAY HE IS.
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY.
PAT PAT
WITH YULIDA! IT'S JUST NOT WORTH IT.

103
I FELT LIKE I WAS BREAKING HIS HEART!
WHY DOES TACHIBANA CARE WHAT YUUDAI THINKS?
OH, YOU KNOW HIM. HE WANTS TO MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY.
BUT YUUDAI'S NEVER HAPPY.
EVERYONE, TARO.
CHK
HUH.
I GUESS HE HASN'T HAD YEARS OF CONCENTRATED PASSIVE-AGGRESSION TO SWAY HIS OPINION.
YEEEAH...
IS THAT YUUDAI'S JACKET?
I WAS GONNA GIVE IT BACK TODAY.
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'LL KEEP HIM FROM TRYING TO FIRE US?
LIKE TEN SECONDS?
I WAS GONNA SAY FIVE.

BUT REALLY, HE SHOULDN'T BE MAD AT US.
HE WASN'T MAD FIVE DRINKS IN WHEN HE WAS BEGGING ME FOR A PIGGYBACK RIDE.
WHICH I GAVE HIM, BY THE WAY.
WELL, HE ONLY GOT UPSET AFTER HE CHECKED HIS PHONE.
MAYBE HE GOT A TEXT FROM HIS... MOM...?
OR HIS... DAD?
OR...
DOES YULIDAI HAVE PARENTS?
I THOUGHT HE HATCHED FROM AN EGG OR SOMETHING.
DON'T BE MEAN, TARO.
I'M NOT BEING MEAN!
I LEGIT THOUGHT HE HATCHED FROM AN EGG.

MAYBE IT WON'T BE SO BAD!
MAYBE HE FORGOT ALL ABOUT SATURDAY NIGHT!
TSUKIJI
ENTER
HAH HAHA, GOOD ONE, JIRO.
THERE'S NO WAY TODAY WON'T TOTALLY SUCK.
THERE THEY ARE!!
GASP!
BETTER CALL IN SICK, BOYS.
HOLY COW, YOU GUYS REALLY PISSED OFF TANAKA!
Y'SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TODAY.
BOYS NO!!
WELCOME TO THE TSUKIJI WHOLESALE MARKET
OH GOD.
I TOLD YA.
STAFF
888
THE SNAKE'S OUT FOR BLOOD!
SO, YOU'VE DECIDED TO COME IN.
HOW BRAVE!
SALE
GO BACK!
I SAW HIM BUTCHER A TUNA WITH HIS TEETH!

SOME OF THE BOXES HAVE BEEN UNPACKED, SO HE'S BEEN HERE...
BUT WHERE DID HE GET TO?
HE'S ALWAYS OUT FRONT IN THE MORNING.
I DON'T LIKE THIS...
SOMETHING SMELLS... FISHY.
HEH
HEH
HEH
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
TARO, PLEASE.
THE FISH AREN'T IN THE TANK YET, MAYBE HE WENT TO SEE THE STOCK?
OR HE COULD JUST BE IN THE BACK.
BUT THAT'S YOUR STATION.
WHY WOULD HE BE BACK THERE?
THAT'S WHERE THE KNIVES ARE.

IS HE BACK THERE?
I DON'T KNOW, HE'S NOT OUT HERE!
OPEN THE CURTAIN!
YOU OPEN IT!
DO YOU SEE HIM?
UH...
NO--WAIT! THERE HE IS!
WHAT'S HE DOING? DOES HE SEE US?
I DON'T THINK SO...HE--
OH MY GOD!!
WHAT?!
OH MY GOD RUN!!!
WHAT?!!

FWOOSH
HEEEY, CHAMP!
WHAT
YOU'RE LATE.

THAT--RRGH!! WENT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED!
KRK
KRK
Y'KNOW, THAT WASN'T TOO BAD!
KRAK!
GAH!
WHOA THERE, KILLER!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN THE BACK EVICERATING SOME SEAFOOD?
MR. MURA!! YOU GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
YUUDAI'S IN A REALLY BAD MOOD!
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
TANAKA? HAH!!
I'M NOT SCARED OF HI--
HHHHH

HMMM...
WEREN'T YOU JUST-- HOW'D YOU GET OUT HERE SO FAST?!
THIS STOCK IS SHIT.
GO GET SOME MORE.
WHAT?!
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN OPENED THE CARTONS!
I SAID GO GET SOME MORE!!
AH--
AHAHAHA!!

HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHAHA
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
HAHAHA--
PAP PAP
PAP PAP
Y'GOTTA LIGHTEN UP, KID.
HAHAHAHA
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP

YUU--
GET BACK TO WORK

SAKANA
CHARMING
OH MY GOD.

C'MON, JIRO...
DON'T BE A WEIRDO, JUST PLAY IT COOL TODAY--
HAVING A GOOD TIME?
WUH--
I-I WAS-UH--
CHIE WAS--
I-
UH-
UH--
I WAS JUST--
WAP!
SHOVE
PICK THAT UP.

SIGHHH...
HEY THERE, TOUGH GUY!
Huh--CHIE?!
HI THERE! COME OVER HERE, I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
I-I CAN'T! YUUDAI WOULD KILL ME!!!
HEHEHE! TANAKA? PLEASE, HE WEIGHS LESS THAN I DO!
WELL--HE'S STILL MY BOSS!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
I SENT MY FRIEND SANGO TO DISTRACT HIM. SHE'S PRETENDING TO BE A CUSTOMER--
--WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHAT FISH ARE.
UH-
WHAT THE HECK?

C'MON, IN HERE!
I-IT'S A LITTLE CLOSE IN THERE--

YEAH, BUT AT LEAST IT'S PRIVATE!
SO, I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS ABOUT OUR DATE TOMORROW.

OH, UH... IF YOU WANNA RESCHEDULE OR--ARE HAVING UH... SECOND THOUGHTS...

MY SISTER'S COMING ALONG.

Y-- YOUR SI--
AND SANGO TOO.

BUT I THINK I HAVE A PLAN TO...
UH...

AAAAaaa
JIRO?

JIROOOO!
C'MON, IT WON'T BE SO BAD!
NNNNHh——. I-I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THIS...
NOOO! DON'T WORRY! I HAVE A PLAN!
IF MORI HAS TO COME ALONG, YOU SHOULD BRING YOUR BROTHER!
AND MAYBE YOUR TALL FRIEND FOR SANGO!
TARO AND TAISEI?
REALLY?!
THAT WAY, WE'LL EACH HAVE EQUAL AMMUNITION!
TARO AND MORI WILL BE TOO BUSY FIGHTING EACH OTHER TO BOTHER US!
IS THIS A DATE OR A WAR??
HE HE HE HE!
OH, JIRO!
YOU'RE SO CUTE.

AND THESE FLIPPY BITS?
FINS.
AND THE FLAPPERS?
GILLS.
AND THE--
TAIL.
SO, WOULD YOU LIKE TO PURCHASE IT...
OR--
NO JIRO
SURE! LET'S FIRE UP THE REGISTER!
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO PREPARE IT FOR YOU?
PREPARE IT FOR ME?
OF COURSE.
IT'S A SERVICE WE'RE PROUD TO OFFER AT SAKANA'S.
THIS CLEAVER SHOULD DO THE TRICK.
UGH...BUT...FOR A FISH THIS SMALL...WOULDN'T A FILLET KNIFE WITH A SHARP EDGE BE BETTER...
!!!
A-HAH!!! YOU DO WORK AT THE MARKET!!
NOOOOOO!

CODE RED! CODE RED!
OH CRAP! HE FIGURED US OUT!
CHIE! CHIE, I'M SORRY!! HE--
NO, SANGO! YOU'LL LEAD HIM RIGHT TO US!!
DOOOOOM
Y-YUUDAI!! UH-- I-I KNOW I... I'M S-SORRY, I JUST--
UH--
WE NEED TO TALK.

NAME: HIME TANAKA
DOB: NOVEMBER 15
AGE: 4

THE MOST PRECIOUS
PRINCESS.

CHAPTER: XII

LOOK, TANAKA, THIS IS MY FAULT.
OH, I KNOW IT'S YOUR FAULT. I'LL HAVE A CHAT WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR LATER.
NOW SCRAM BEFORE I CALL MARKET SECURITY.
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT! WE'RE GOING. SEE YOU LATER, JIRO.
B-BYE...
TELL ME, JIRO... DO YOU LIKE YOUR JOB?
W-WELL, SURE!
IT'S-- UH... IT--
IT'S "OKAY?"
YEAH...I GUESS IT'S...OKAY.
I SEE.
SO. YOU WOULDN'T MIND LEAVING IT, RIGHT?

I MEAN, WHAT'S THERE TO REALLY LIKE ABOUT THIS JOB?
SURE, YOU GET TO PISS AROUND WITH YOUR BROTHER AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND ALL DAY...
NO... LISTEN, THAT'S NOT--
BUT LONG HOURS...
EARLY DAYS--
LOW PAY--
FISH SMELL...
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO GIVE A SHIT.
DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS RIGHT HERE?
WHAT, DO YOU, LIKE...
WANNA SQUEEZE INTO A LITTLE NOOK TOGETHER AND TALK THERE?
NO-- IT'S BEEN A SLOW AFTERNOON, I'M SORRY.
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT! I GUESS A FEW MINUTES OF DOWN TIME WOULD MAKE ANYBODY UP AND LEAVE THEIR JOB!
I'M SORRY! I WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
OKAY, LEMME JUST WRITE THAT DOWN,
"PROMISES NOT TO BE SHITTY AT HIS JOB."
I SAID I WAS SORRY!!
SAYS HE'S "SORRY."

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO MEAN TO ME?!
WANTS TO "BE BABIED."
SERIOUSLY, YUUDAI!
WE ALL HAD A GOOD TIME ON SATURDAY!
DIDN'T THIS WEEKEND MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
I THOUGHT WE'D BE A LITTLE FRIENDLIER TO EACH OTHER AT LEAST!
YOU THOUGHT...
...THAT ONE STUPID MISTAKE OF A WEEKEND WOULD MAKE US FRIENDS?
I'M NOT HERE TO BE YOUR FRIEND!
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST FIRE ME?! OR LEAVE IF YOU HATE US SO MUCH?!
I HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO FIRE YOU.
AND I'M HERE BECAUSE I NEED THE MONEY.
YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE REN SAKANA IS YOUR UNCLE.
AND IF I EVER PULLED THE SAME STUNT YOU JUST DID--
HE WOULD FIRE ME!!

CHUK
CHUK
CHUK
CHUK
CHUK
CHUK
WAIT, DO YOU HEAR THAT?
CHUK
CHUK
YEAH...
CHUK
CHUK
JIRO!
IT'S THE ICE MACHINE!
HUH?
CHUK
CHUK
CHUK
CHUK
THE MARKET ICE MACHINE! BEHIND OUR STALL!
CHUK
CHUK
CHUK
CHUK
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TO--
KA-
CHUNK

WHOOSH
POK
NGHH!
AAAH!!
POK
AAAAA!
PLEASE NO RUNNING IN THE MARKET
BOOSH!!
HEY, GUYS, WHAT'D I MISS?

GREAT, THAT'S JUST GREAT-- THERE GOES OUR BUSINESS FOR THE REST OF THE DAY!
THE ICE MACHINE EXPLODING IS THE FASTEST WAY TO CLEAR OUT THE MARKET.
UGH— HOW CAN THIS DAY GET ANY SHITTIER?!
HOW'S IT HANGIN' ASSHOLES?!
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
WE NEED SOME HELP CLEANING UP BY THE ICE MACHINE. THE WHOLE MARKET'S PITCHING IN.
UP FOR SHOVELLING SOME ICE, KILLER?
DON'T CALL ME THAT.
WHAT? NO!!
REN'S ORDERS, KID. CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT!
I NEED HIM TO HELP CLEAN UP HERE!
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
SEE YOU LATER, JIRO!
AAAGH!
POK
DON'T LEAVE MEEEE..
VROOO

I'LL START CLEANING UP IN THE BACK.
YOU STAY OUT HERE IN CASE ANY MORE CUSTOMERS COME BY.
AND TRY NOT TO WANDER OFF WHILE I'M NOT LOOKING.
YUUDAI, WAIT.
WHY DID YOU COME DRINKING WITH US ON SATURDAY NIGHT?
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT 'CUZ ME OR TARO ASKED YOU...
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. YOUR BIG STUPID FRIEND PRESSURED ME INTO IT, OKAY?
IT WAS HIS FAULT.
HIS FAULT? FOR WHAT?!
DON'T BRING TAISEI INTO THIS!
HE WAS ALL BROKEN UP THIS MORNING THINKING YOU HATED HIM!

HE THINKS I HATE HIM?
OF COURSE HE DOES!!!
YOU STORMED OUT YESTERDAY LIKE WE'D KICKED YOUR DOG OR SOMETHING!
HE EVEN SENT ME HERE WITH MONEY TO PAY FOR THE STUFF YOU LOST. AND WE FOUND YOUR JACKET, ALRIGHT?!
IT'S IN THE BACK.
SO, PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU HATE THE MOST CONSIDERATE PERSON EITHER OF US WILL EVER KNOW.
...
HMM...
I GUESS I DO!!
NOW GET BACK TO WORK.
FWAP

grumble
grumble
asshole-
SWEEP
SWEEP
SWEEP
grumble
grrhg-
grumble-
Thinks he's so bad- HAH!
"I'm Yuudai im cold and unapproachable buhuhuhh..."
HAH!
UGH. I can't wait till this day's over...
...ah. he's the reason I hate this hmm... job-
HMPF.

THERE! NICE AND CLEAN!
...NOW WHAT?
Hmm.
I GUESS I CAN CLOSE THE REGISTER AWHILE...
POP!
TAK
HAVEN'T HAD ANY CUSTOMERS SINCE THE ICE MACHINE EXPLODED.
SO... IT'S PROBABLY OKAY
TAK
HEY, BUD.
THIS GUY
HOPE I DIDN'T SPOOK YA.

I-I'M SORRY, SIR, CAN I HELP YOU?
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CLOSE THE REGISTER...
NO, I'M GOOD. JUST TAKING A LOOK AROUND.
THIS GUY
GO AHEAD AND DO YOUR THING.
TH-THANKS.
THIS PLACE SURE CLEARED OUT FAST, HUH?
YEAH, THAT WAS THE ICE MACHINE.
IT KINDA EXPLODED AND SCARED ALL THE CUSTOMERS AWAY.
TAK TAK TAK
EVERYBODY'S OVER THERE HELPING WITH CLEANUP. EXCEPT ME I GUESS.
SO, YOU'RE HERE ALL BY YOURSELF?
HMM.
THAT'S REALLY LAME.
UH...
NO...
MY SUPERVISOR'S IN THE BACK CLEANING UP.
OH. YOUR SUPER-VISOR?
YEAH... UH-
WELL, I BETTER HAVE A WORD WITH HIM, THEN.
HUH?!

A WORD WITH M-MY SUPERVISOR?
IS--IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG, SIR?
HMM...
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL, BUT...
THE SIGN OUT FRONT SAYS THIS PLACE DOESN'T CLOSE FOR ANOTHER HOUR...
AND YOU ALREADY CLOSED THE REGISTER.
BUT--BUT, YOU TOLD ME I COULD-
SORRY.
IT'S JUST NOT VERY PROFESSIONAL.
I... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, SIR...
THANKS, BUD.
I APPRECIATE IT.

UGH, WHAT DOES HE CUT THESE WITH? A BANDSAW?!
FISH AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BLEED THIS MUCH.
SQUEEK SQUEEK
UH. YUUDAI?
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
THERE'S...UH... A CUSTOMER OUT HERE...
YEAH, SO? SELL THEM A FISH OR SOMETHING.
DO YOUR JOB.
WELL...YEAH... UH...HE KINDA WANTS TO TALK TO THE...UH...
SUPERVISOR...
WHAT?! WHY?!
BECAUSE I... MIGHT'VE...
KINDA...
CLOSED THE REGISTER EARLY...
....
ARE YOU SHITTING ME, JIRO.
ARE YOU SHITTING ME, JIRO?!
AAA-NO!

ALRIGHT, WHAT'S--
A-A-ARATA?!?
THIS
DAY
BA-HAHAHAHA
HOLY SHIT!!!
WHAT DID
YOU DO TO
YOUR HAIR?!?

LIKE...WHAT'S ALL THAT STUFF IN THE BACK?!
IS THAT A MULLET?! ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE YOURSELF LOOK BAD?!
HEY, YOU WORK WITH HIM, RIGHT?
HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?
I MEAN... I GUESS YOU HAVE A WEIRD THING OUT THE BACK TOO...
HAHA... YEAH, UH...
!!
SO, YOU TWO... KNOW EACH OTHER...?
WOW, THAT SURE IS A QUESTION!
MH.
BOMP
ME N' YUUDA! GO WAAAY BACK, HUH, BUD?
YEAH.
I'M ARATA TASAKI.
AND, NO HARD FEELINGS ABOUT THE REGISTER, OKAY?
MNRGK-
I DIDN'T THINK THIS ASSHOLE WOULDA TALKED TO ME OTHERWISE!
HE HASN'T ANSWERED ANY OF MY TEXTS!

NGHH!-I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME TO MY WORKPLACE!!
HAH. LIKE FOUR YEARS AGO.
I JUST WANTED TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT, THAT'S ALL.
ABOUT WHAT?!
UH, THE TEXT YOU SENT ME?
SATURDAY NIGHT?
HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU IN A YEAR AND THEN THIS?
SEE, I THOUGHT WE COULD TALK ABOUT IT LIKE REASONABLE ADULTS.
INSTEAD OF PRETENDING LIKE IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT-
YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE
...
WOW!
I'M HERE!
WHAT A SURPRISE!!
SORRY YOU GOTTA SEE THIS, BUD.
YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN TO WORK WITH HIM EVERY DAY.
HA-HAH-HA-AH-UH... YEAH...
Bat
I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY YOU DON'T THINK A CHAT BETWEEN OLD FRIENDS IS UNREASONABLE?
RIGHT?
WH-HUH?

I MEAN, YOU SEEM LIKE A SMART GUY.
U-UH, ...I...
I'M SURE YOU COULD HANDLE THE PLACE FOR A FEW MINUTES WHILE WE GO TALK.
YOU'RE... LEAVING THE STALL?
DON'T WORRY, YOU WON'T GET IN TROUBLE.
YUUDAI'S ALL BARK AND NO BITE.
YEAH...
I-I THINK YOU SHOULD, UH...
YOU SHOULD LEAVE.
THANKS, BUD!
OH, UH... N-NO, I MEANT...
YUUDAI SHOULD STAY HERE...
AND... YOU SHOULD...
LEAVE THE MARKET...

...
THIS GUY
WOW.
THIS GUY
REALLY?
--TO CLOSE STUFF UP NOW!
IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT AND HE NEEDS TO BE THERE BECAUSE HE'S THE BOSS!! YEP! HAHA!!
HE... HE DOESN'T ...
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME, BUD.
I KNOW THIS GUY.
REGISTER'S ALREADY CLOSED.
woosh
AH-
WH--!
HAHA, YEAH, WELL, I PROBABLY SCREWED IT UP!
WHY?
UH, OH, UH-- WELL- HE'S M-MY BOSS KINDA, SO- I NEED HIM-
YOU SURE ARE STICKING YOUR NECK OUT FOR SOMEONE WHO TREATS YOU LIKE SHIT.
BUT REALLY, YUUDAI...
THIS IS PRETTY LOW, EVEN FOR YOU.
HUH?

I MEAN, HONESTLY...
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF TEXTING ME ON A SATURDAY NIGHT...
...WHEN YOU ALREADY HAVE A NEW BOYFRIEND?
HUH??
HUH?!
HUH?!

SO...SO, WAIT--
YOU AND HIM WERE--
ARRRRR
JIRO, JUST--
JUST GO CLEAN UP, OKAY?!
B-BUT!
I-I'M JUST TRYING TO HELP--
YOU DONT HAVE TO--JUST--
HEY, HEY, WOAH! HOLD ON A SEC!
DID YOU SAY JIRO?
THIS GUY
LIKE... JIRO SAKANA??
...YEAH...
THAT'S MY NAME...
WOW! YOU'RE JIRO SAKANA!
HAHA-
MY BAD, MAN!
I WAS EXPECTING SOMEONE A LITTLE MORE...
...WELL...
HMM.

IN ANY CASE-- I'VE BEEN A HUGE ASSHOLE, HUH??
COMING IN HERE AND MAKING ALL THESE ASSUMPTIONS!
LOOK, I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, BUD. OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT FOOLIN' WITH -HAH- JIRO SAKANA!
HEY!
I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT'S UP! WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN LIKE A YEAR!
A LITTLE CHAT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK, HUH?
...N- NO, JUST-...
I MEAN, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TEXTED ME!
I-I KNOW, I...
HEY!!
W-WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO STILL- SO-
SO, YOU NEED TO LEAVE!
WOW! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!
YOU'VE GOT NO SAY IN THIS CONVERSATION!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT YUUDAI HATES YOU?!

HONESTLY, THAT'S ALL I'D EVER HEAR ABOUT AT NIGHT!
LIKE, "JIRO DID THIS WRONG AND THEN HE DID THAT WRONG.!!"
OH.
"IF I HAD A FEW YEN FOR EVERY TIME HE SCREWED UP, MY MOM WOULD BE LIVING IN A MANSION."
"JIRO'S AN INCOMPETENT IDIOT AND I CAN'T BELIEVE HIS UNCLE HIRED HIM."
"HE'S SO WEIRD."
"HE'S PROBABLY TOO DUMB TO GET HIRED FOR ANY OTHER JOB."
"I CAN'T WAIT 'TILL REN GETS SUPER FED UP AND FIRES HIM."
"HE'S A LITTLE GROSS DWEEB."
STUFF LIKE THAT.
I MEAN, IT JUST WENT ON AND ON.
YOU SEEM PRETTY NON-OFFENSIVE TO ME, BUT LIKE... IS THIS FIGHT REALLY WORTH IT?
WELL... I KNEW ALL THAT ALREADY..
HUH??
SHR—
—UG!
...HE HASN'T SAID THOSE EXACT WORDS, BUT...
BUT... I KNOW...
I KNOW HE DOESN'T LIKE ME...
SO... THAT STUFF DOESN'T REALLY CHANGE ANY-THING.
AND... YOU SHOULD STILL LEAVE.
OR I'LL HAVE TO CALL MARKET SECURITY.

HMH.
AND YOU'RE JUST... OKAY WITH HIM—
EXCUSE ME!
I'M LOOKING TO BUY SOME CRAB. COULD YOU PLEASE SHOW ME YOUR BEST STOCK?
TOO BAD THEY ALREADY CLOSED THE REGISTER.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
THIS GUY
I'M SORRY?
DO YOU WORK HERE?

YOU SEE, I'M A VERY WEALTHY CUSTOMER!
WITH VERY HIGH EXPECTATIONS!
AND I SIMPLY MUST GET WHAT I WANT!

SO YOU FIRE UP THIS REGISTER AGAIN!
RIGHT NOW!
PAT
PAT
PAT

OR I'LL BE FORCED TO CALL YOUR MANAGER AND TELL HIM YOU BOYS HAVE BEEN SLACKING!
I HAVE HIM ON SPEED-DIAL!

A-HAHAH! HUH!
I GUESS THAT'S MY CUE TO LEAVE!
I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER TONIGHT, HUH, YUUDA!?

AND TRY TO ANSWER YOUR PHONE THIS TIME.

♪

WOW, HAHA, THAT--
SURE WAS SOMETHING, HUH?! HAHA-
HUH, YUUDAI???
I'M GLAD I STOPPED OVER!
HE LOOKED LIKE A BIG SLIMEBALL!
AH--
YUUDAI??
W-WAIT, YUUDAI, UH... ARE YOU... OKAY??
DO YOU WANNA UM... TALK OR- OR SOMETHING?
AH- WHAT AN ASSHOLE, RIGHT?
...
STOP.
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT.
GET BACK TO WORK.
BUT--!
GET BACK TO WORK, JIRO.

L-LISTEN, I KNOW YOU'RE ANGRY, BUT-
BUT--I'M JUST... A LITTLE...
WORRIED ABOUT...
Y-
I SAID. GET BACK TO WORK.
JIRO.
O-OKAY.
BUT--
EVERYTHING'S ALREADY CLEANED UP...
~FWAP~

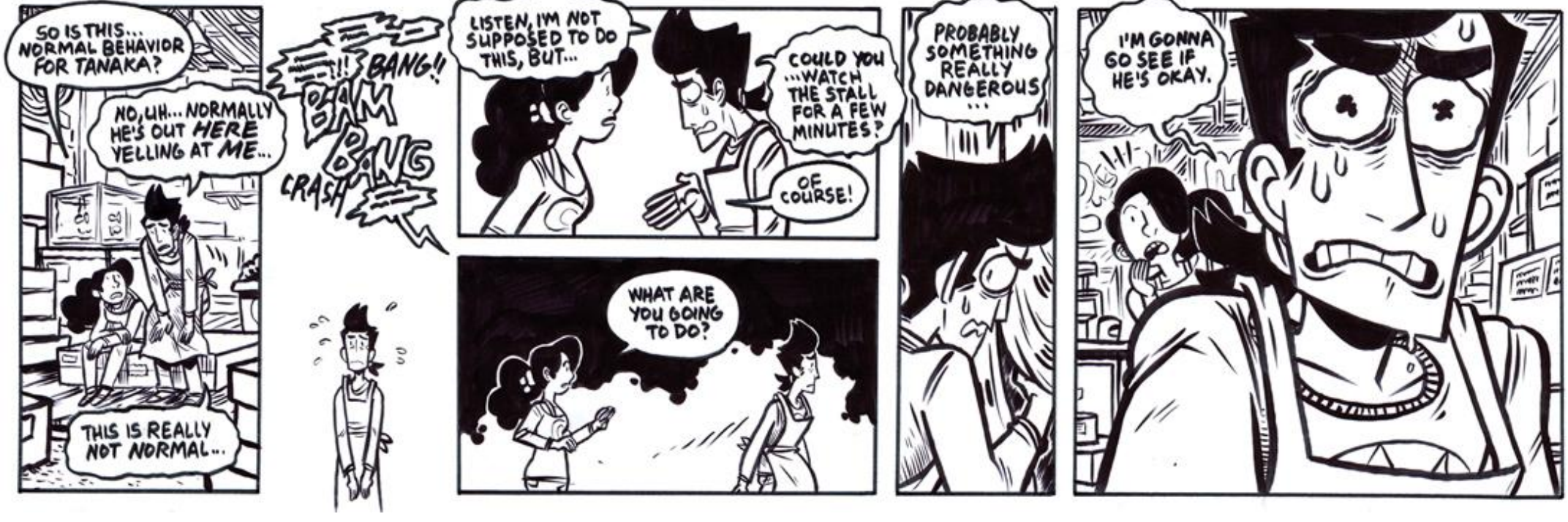
SO, UH... HOW'S YOUR DAY BEEN?
OH, PRETTY AVERAGE, EXCEPT FOR THE ICE MACHINE... HOW ABOUT... YOU...?

KERASH
IT'S-HAHA-HAH-
IT'S Y'KNOW!
I SEE ...

TH-THANKS FOR STOPPING OVER, THOUGH...
I DIDN'T THINK THAT GUY WOULD EVER LEAVE.
NO PROB! I'M VERY GOOD AT SPOTTING TROUBLE-MAKERS.

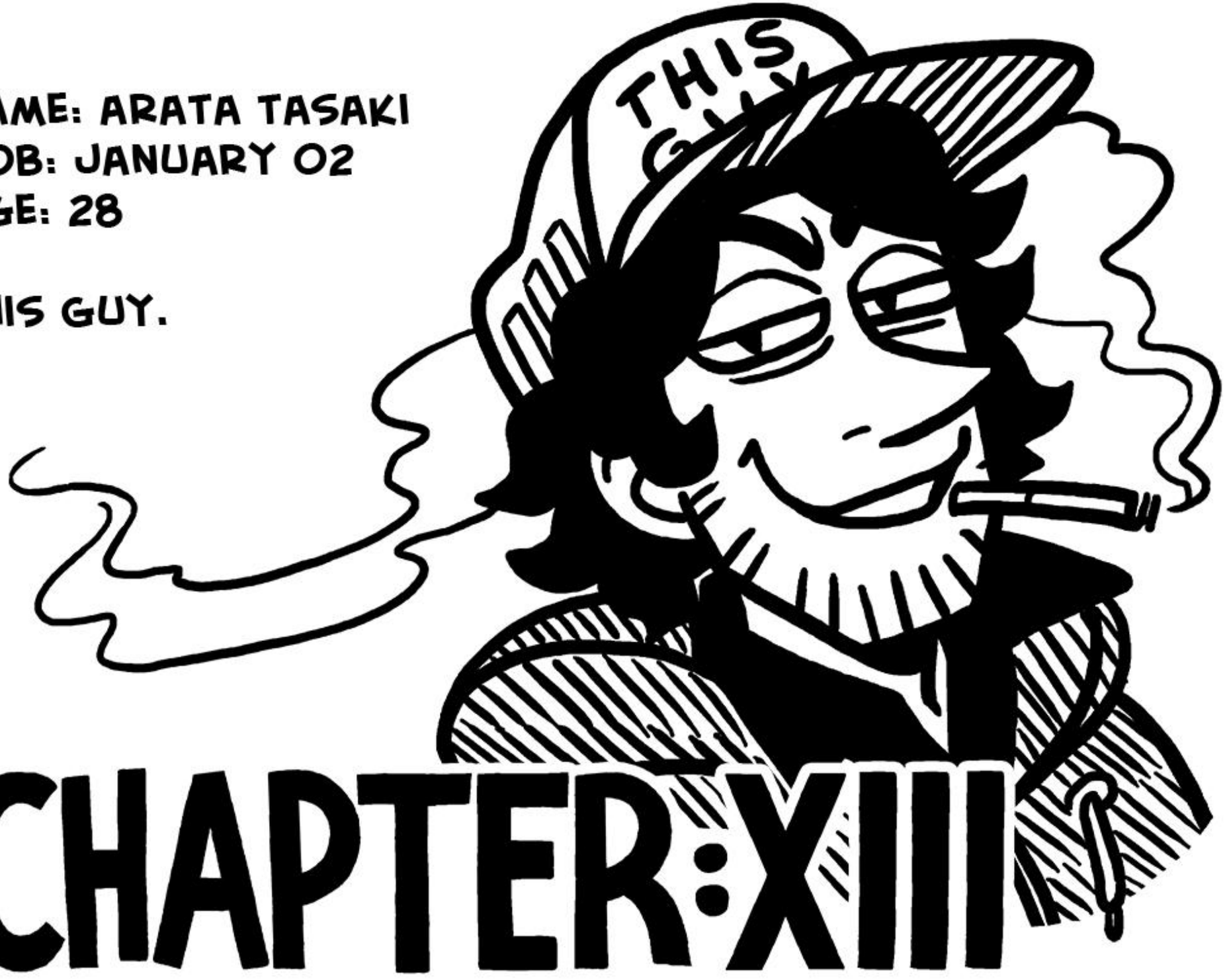
BUT, WHO WAS HE? SOMEBODY TANAKA KNOWS?
HE'S YUUDAI'S ...UH... ...
BAM KRASH BOOSH

P-PERSON HE KNOWS.

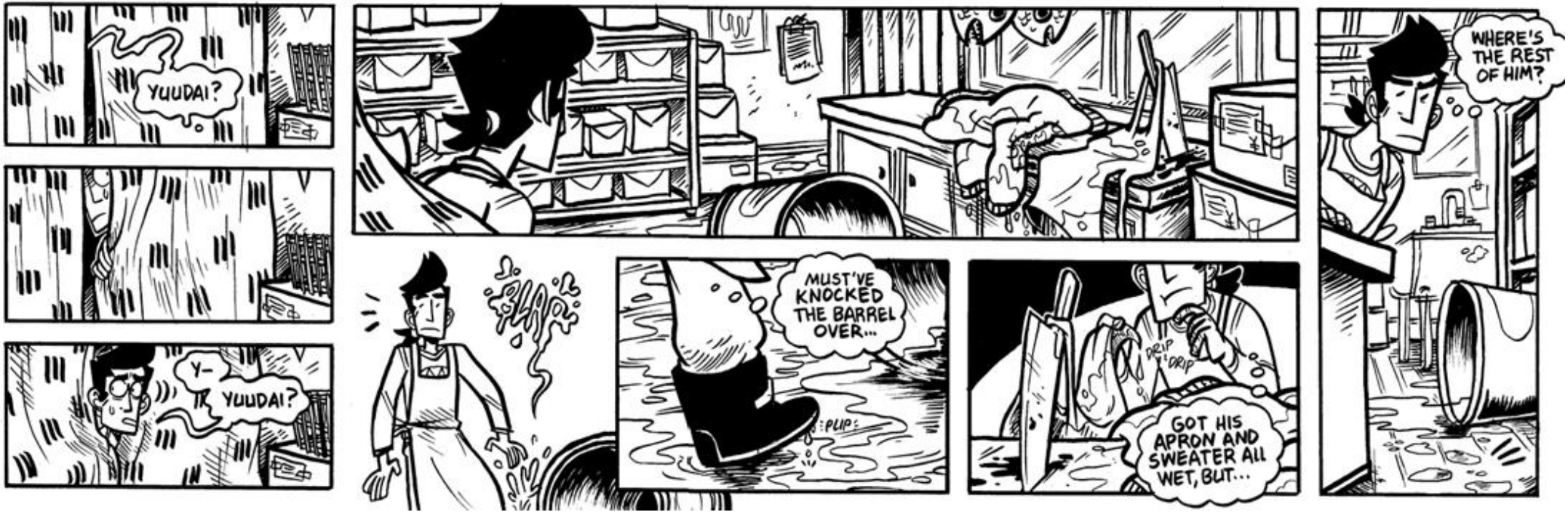

SO IS THIS... NORMAL BEHAVIOR FOR TANAKA?
NO, UH... NORMALLY HE'S OUT HERE YELLING AT ME...
THIS IS REALLY NOT NORMAL...
!!! BANG!!
BAM
BANG
CRASH
LISTEN, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO DO THIS, BUT...
COULD YOU ...WATCH THE STALL FOR A FEW MINUTES?
OF COURSE!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
PROBABLY SOMETHING REALLY DANGEROUS ...
I'M GONNA GO SEE IF HE'S OKAY.

NAME: ARATA TASAKI
DOB: JANUARY 02
AGE: 28

THIS GUY.



CHAPTER: XIII

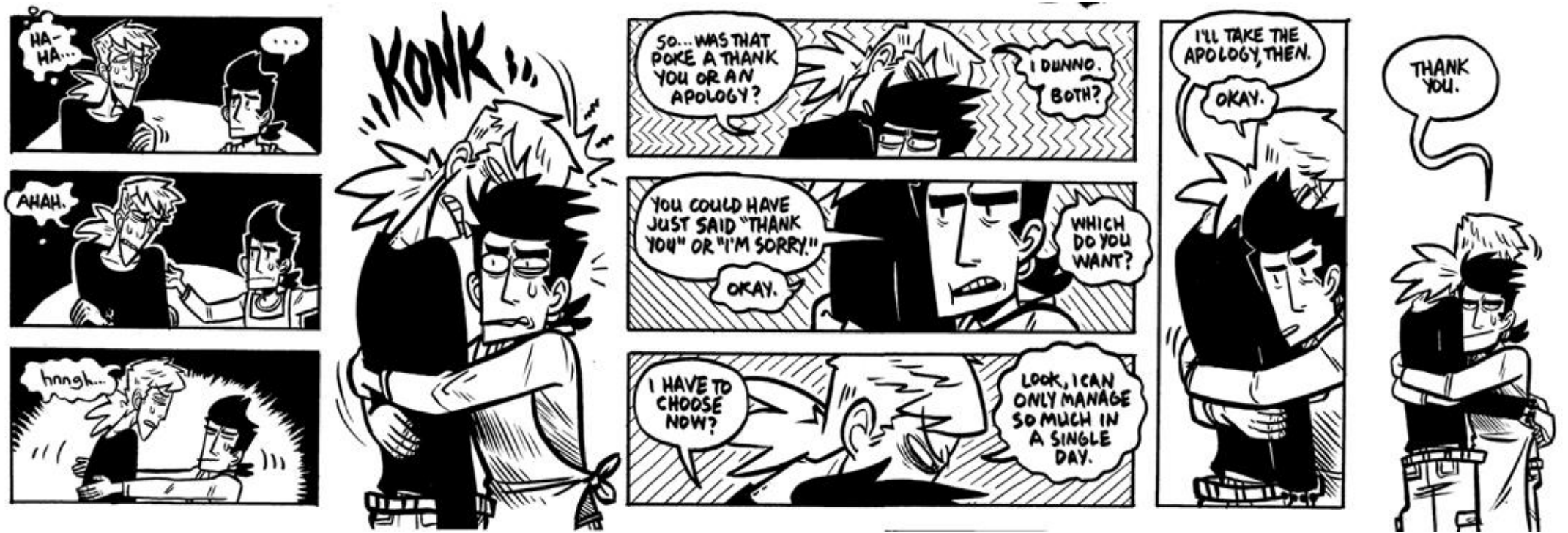

YUUDAI?
Y-
YUUDAI?
FLIP
MUST'VE KNOCKED THE BARREL OVER...
PLIP
DRIP DRIP
GOT HIS APRON AND SWEATER ALL WET, BUT...
WHERE'S THE REST OF HIM?

SHFF-
SAKANA'S
SCFFL
YUUDAI?

WHAT.
CAN I COME UP?
I TOLD YOU TO GET BACK TO WORK.
THE WORK'S ALL DONE...
THEN WHO'S WATCHING THE STALL?
UH... CHIE..?
CHIE? HAH-
AHAH-HA-
OKAY.
I GET IT...
YOU'RE TRYING TO GET BACK AT ME, RIGHT?
GET B-- NO!!!
I-I JUST WANTED TO FIND YOU TO--
-TO LAUGH AT ME.
RIGHT?
NNNOOo!!!
TO SEE IF YOU'RE OKAY!!!

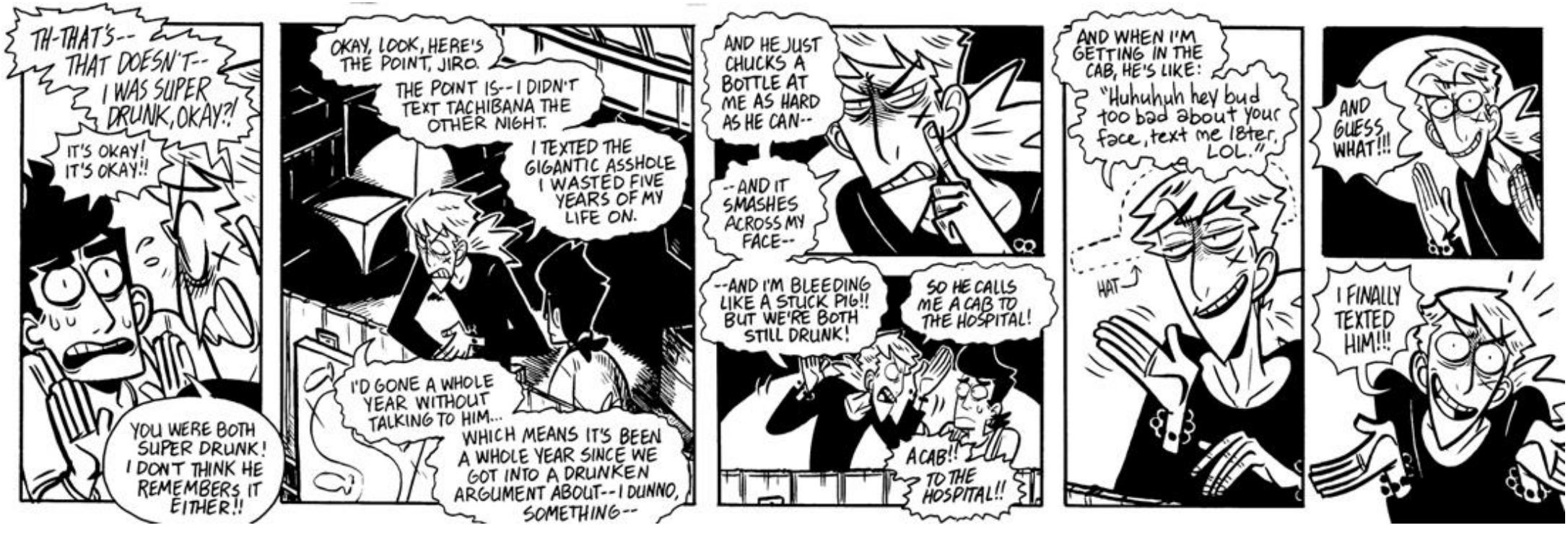
OH! I'M FANTASTIC, THANKS SO MUCH!
NO YOU'RE NOT, YOU'RE SUPER UPSET!
BUT NOT AT ME.
THAT'S HOW I KNOW SOMETHING'S WRONG.
HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M NOT SUPER UPSET AT YOU?
I HATE YOUR GUTS, REMEMBER?
AND NOW YOU AND CHIE HAVE ALL THIS DIRT ON ME...
I DIDN'T TELL CHIE.
...HUH?
I DIDN'T TELL HER WHO ARATA IS, OR THAT YOU GUYS WERE A THING...
SO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO HATE CHIE.
YOU CAN JUST...
KEEP HATING ME.
I GUESS.
I'M CONFUSED.

I'VE BEEN SO SHITTY TO YOU ALL DAY--
WHY STICK YOUR NECK OUT FOR ME?
BECAUSE OF THE TEXTS.
TEXTS.
YESTERDAY MORNING, YOU WERE FINE UNTIL YOU FOUND ALL THOSE TEXTS ON YOUR PHONE.
AND THAT GUY WAS TALKING ABOUT TEXTS SO... I PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER AND FIGURED... WELL ...
YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T WANT HIM AROUND...
HAH-WOW! HAHA-AH-HAHA!!
YOU KNOW WHY I REALLY CAME ALONG ON YOUR DATE, JIRO?
I THOUGHT IT WAS GONNA BE HILARIOUS IF YOU SCREWED UP.
BUT YOU--AHAH-YOU TRIED TO TELL OFF SOME BIG DUMB DOUCHEBAG YOU'VE NEVER MET--
JUST BECAUSE I WAS UPSET..
ABOUT SOME TEXTS??
WELL...YEAH.
WOW...
POKE
YOU'RE REALLY STUPID.


HA-HA...
...
AHAH.
hnngh...
KONK
SO... WAS THAT POKE A THANK YOU OR AN APOLOGY?
I DUNNO. BOTH?
YOU COULD HAVE JUST SAID "THANK YOU" OR "I'M SORRY."
OKAY.
WHICH DO YOU WANT?
I HAVE TO CHOOSE NOW?
LOOK, I CAN ONLY MANAGE SO MUCH IN A SINGLE DAY.
I'LL TAKE THE APOLOGY, THEN.
OKAY.
THANK YOU.

OKAY, ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.
SHOVE
I'M FINE NOW.
UH... ARE YOU SURE? IF YOU WANNA, LIKE... TALK...
...ABOUT STUFF? UH... MAYBE IT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL... MORE FINE?
...
...
UGHhh... SURE, WHATEVER.
TARO'S NOT BACK YET ANYWAYS...
I NEED A CIGARETTE FIRST...
I THINK I HID SOME UP HERE LAST WEEK...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU SMOKED.
YEAH...
YOU DIDN'T KNOW I WAS GAY EITHER.
WELL...

WELL?!
WELL WHAT?!
I'VE NEVER TALKED ABOUT IT!
2 YEARS AGO...
ICE MACHINE ON THE FRITZ AGAIN??
YUP.
DAMN!
YOU BETTER TAKE OFF THAT WET SHIRT OR YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
!!!!
PBBTBT!
OKAY.
N-NO! YOU HAVEN'T!
BUT, UH...
DO YOU REMEMBER THE LAST TIME THE ICE MACHINE EXPLODED?
?
WH-WHAT?! I-I SP-- I SPILLED MY COFFEE!!! I'M--
--I'M LEAVING!!! I'M--
BLAMP
I-I'M GOING ON BREAK!!!
THAT--THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING!!!
HE'S--HE'S GOT A NICE BODY!!! OKAY?!
ANYONE WOULD AGREE WITH ME!!!
I'M NOT DISAGREEING!!
BUT--
YOU ALSO KISSED TAISEI ON SATURDAY.
PPBBPTBT!


TH-THAT'S-- THAT DOESN'T-- I WAS SUPER DRUNK, OKAY?!
IT'S OKAY! IT'S OKAY!!
YOU WERE BOTH SUPER DRUNK! I DON'T THINK HE REMEMBERS IT EITHER!!
OKAY, LOOK, HERE'S THE POINT, JIRO.
THE POINT IS--I DIDN'T TEXT TACHIBANA THE OTHER NIGHT.
I TEXTED THE GIGANTIC ASSHOLE I WASTED FIVE YEARS OF MY LIFE ON.
I'D GONE A WHOLE YEAR WITHOUT TALKING TO HIM...
WHICH MEANS IT'S BEEN A WHOLE YEAR SINCE WE GOT INTO A DRUNKEN ARGUMENT ABOUT--I DUNNO, SOMETHING--
AND HE JUST CHUCKS A BOTTLE AT ME AS HARD AS HE CAN--
--AND IT SMASHES ACROSS MY FACE--
--AND I'M BLEEDING LIKE A STUCK PIG!! BUT WE'RE BOTH STILL DRUNK!
SO HE CALLS ME A CAB TO THE HOSPITAL!
A CAB!! TO THE HOSPITAL!!
AND WHEN I'M GETTING IN THE CAB, HE'S LIKE:
"Huhuhuh hey bud too bad about your face, text me l8ter, LOL."
HAT
AND GUESS WHAT!!!
I FINALLY TEXTED HIM!!!

I'M SORRY, YUUDAI. THAT'S SOME REALLY TOUGH STUFF, MAN.
MHH.
PAT PAT
SO, THAT WAS YOUR ACCIDENT LAST YEAR? WHEN YOU WERE GONE FOR A MONTH?
YEAH.
I JUST...NEEDED SOME TIME TO ...UH...
F-FOR MY FACE TO LOOK BETTER...
KRAK
THAT'S--ERGK--REASONABLE!
BUT TAKING TIME OFF DIDN'T MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
IT JUST GAVE ME MORE TIME TO BE A HUGE IDIOT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
UH...REMEMBER THE LAST TIME THE ICE MACHINE EXPLODED...?
SHIGERU GOT ALL WET?
Y...YEAH... AND...?
YOU SPIT OUT YOUR COFFEE?
BECAUSE ...??
HE'S... HOT?
AND SOOOOo....
YOU... GOT COFFEE ON YOUR APRON?
...
...?
SOMETIMES I FORGET YOU...
WELL...
LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT...

OKAY, ANYWAYS... LET'S SEE... WHAT ELSE?
UH... I GET ALONG WITH MY MOM REAL WELL.
BUT SHE LIVES AWAY FROM THE CITY FOR HER HEALTH.
SO, I DON'T SEE HER THAT OFTEN.
MY DAD LIVES IN SWEDEN.
WE DON'T LIKE EACH OTHER.
I HAVE A CAT.
SHE'S THE BEST.
AND THERE YOU GO! LITERALLY EVERY-THING ABOUT ME, YUUDAI TANAKA, I NEVER WANTED YOU TO KNOW!
OKAY!...GOOD?
DO YOU FEEL ANY BETTER?
A-HAH! NO!!!
I HAVE TO DEAL WITH ARATA ALL OVER AGAIN TONIGHT!
BECAUSE I'M A GROSS IDIOT WHO DRUNK-TEXTED AN ASSHOLE WHILE I WAS KISSING YOUR BEST FRIEND!
SO, I FEEL DISGUSTING!!
AW, NOOOO! YOU'RE NOT DISGUSTING!
WHAT DID YOU TEXT HIM?
I DUNNO...
I DON'T WANNA KNOW...
I HAVEN'T EVEN LOOKED AT IT YET...
DO YOU...
UH...
DO YOU WANT ME TO LOOK AT IT?

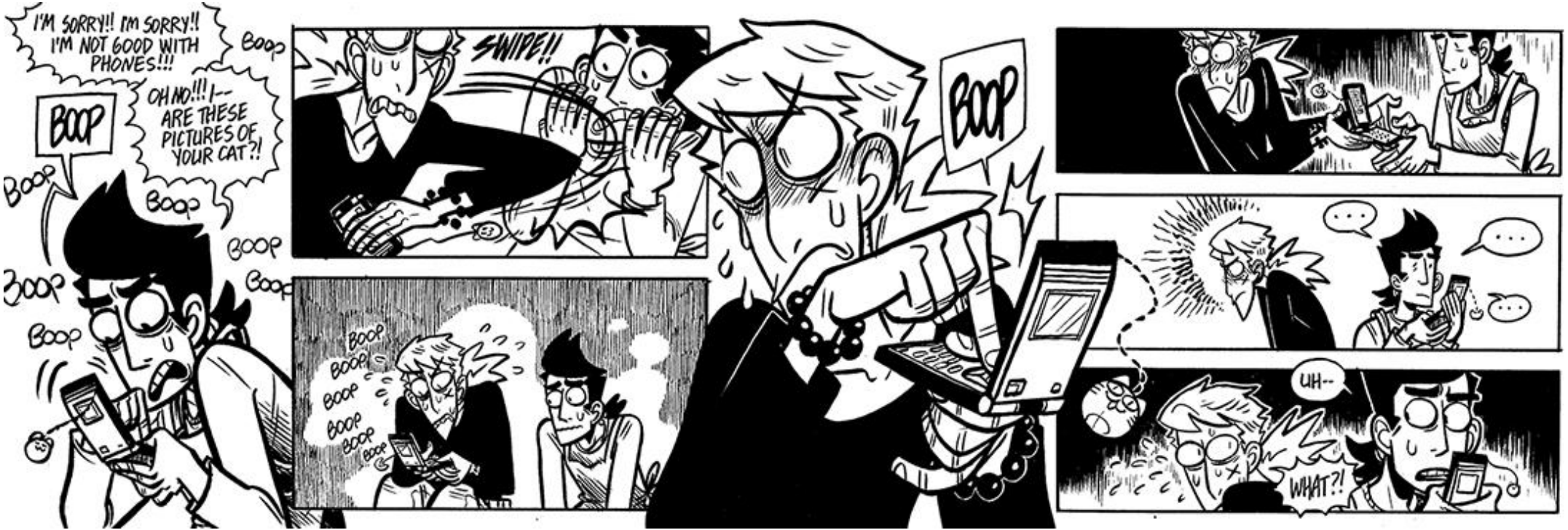
...
WHY WOULD YOU READ THE TEXT?

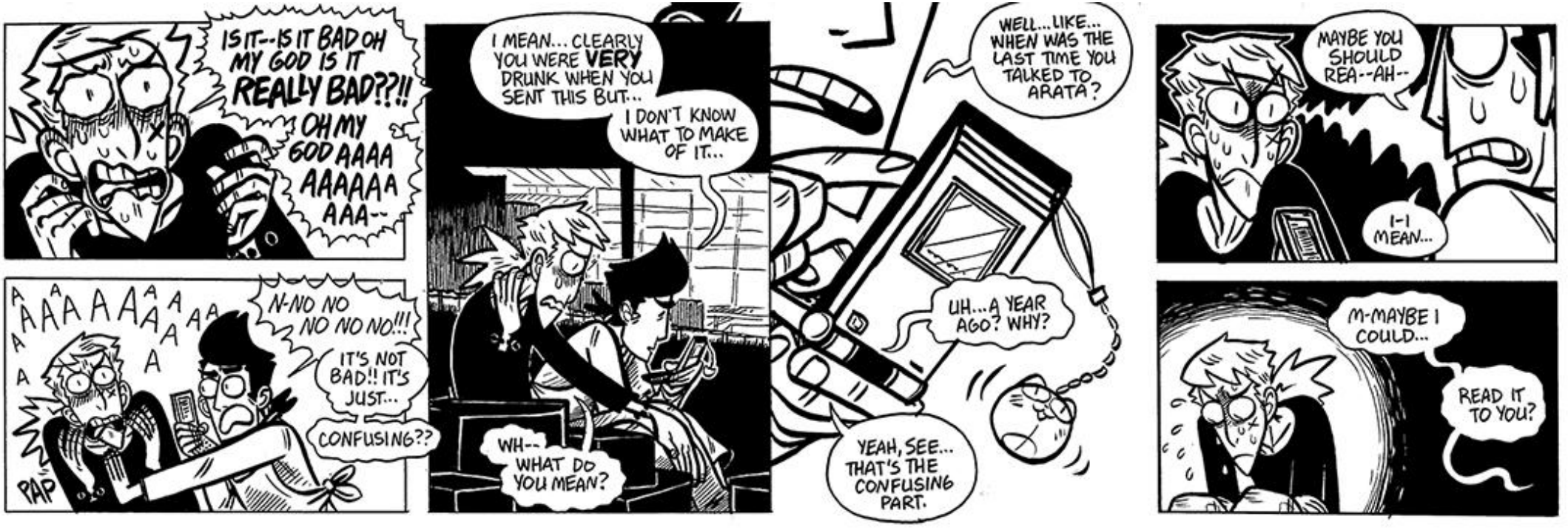
W-WELL...I'VE GOT... A THIRD PARTY PERSPECTIVE, RIGHT?
NO JUDGEMENT, TOTALLY NEUTRAL!
HMH.
I-I COULD JUST, LIKE...GIVE IT A LOOK AND TELL YOU IF IT'S REALLY BAD?

A-AND THEN I'LL JUST FORGET I EVER SAW IT!
HAH.
AND I WON'T TELL ANYBODY WHAT YOU SAID, SO...
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE, RIGHT?

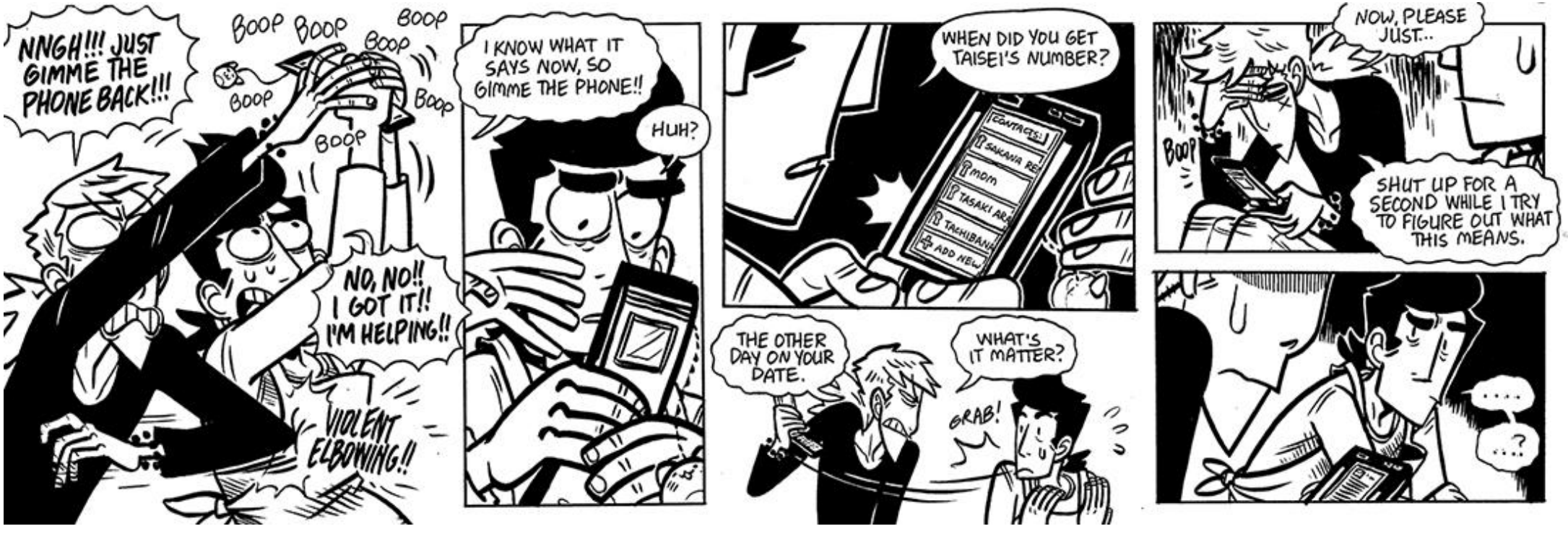
...
I GUESS I DON'T.

ALRIGHT, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE COOL WITH THIS?
NO, BUT LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH...
OKAY, I'M OPENING YOUR OUTBOX.
HERE WE GO, NO JUDGEMENT!
JUST DO IT, JIRO.
OKAY.
BOOP!
...?
BOOP
...!?
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!!
I TOUCHED THE WRONG ICON!! I OPENED A WEB BROWSER!!!
OH MY GOD, JIRO!!!

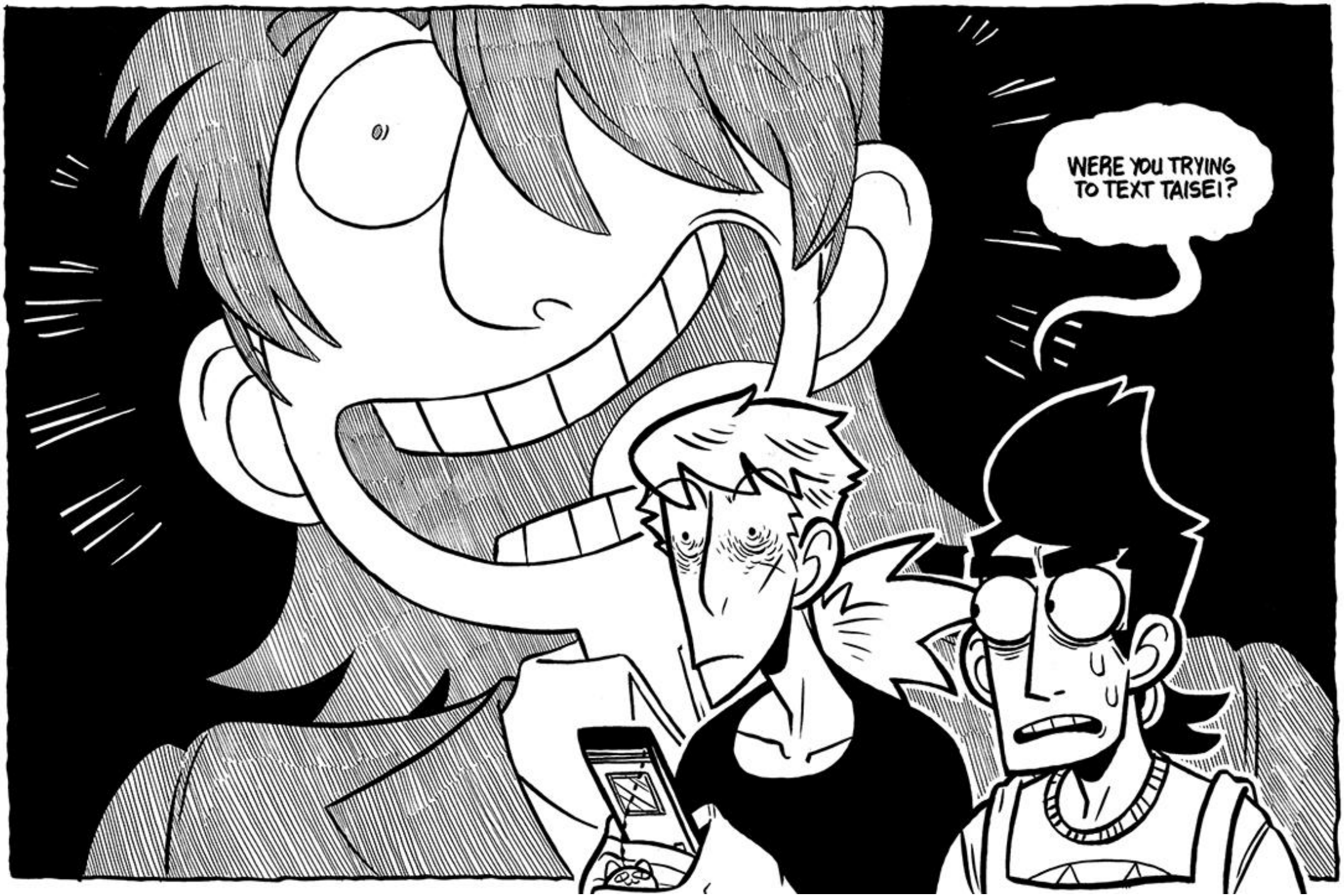

I'M SORRY!! I'M SORRY!! I'M NOT GOOD WITH PHONES!!!
BOOP
OH NO!!! I-- ARE THESE PICTURES OF YOUR CAT?!
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
SWIPE!!
BOOP
UH--
WHAT?!


IS IT--IS IT BAD OH MY GOD IS IT REALLY BAD??!!
OH MY GOD AAAA AAAAAA AAA--
A A A

OKAY.
OKAY, YEAH...
OKAY, I CAN DO THIS...
INHALE
MENTAL FORTITUDE!!!
OKAY, I'M READY.
READ IT.
OKAY...
KEEP IN MIND YOU WERE VERY DRUNK...
I WAS THERE, JIRO, I WAS THE DRUNK ONE, I GET IT.
OKAY, OKAY.
OKAY.
HERE GOES...
OMG!!!!! U R THE CUTEST MOST CUTE ADORABLE GUY EVR OMG!!! U!! OMG!!! IM GONNA GO JUMP OFF THAT FENCE!!!! 4 U! PLZ WATCH! ;D!!! THEN! IM GONNA COME BACK N GIVE U A KISS!! OMG!!! PLZ CAN WE DATE?!!?!!!??? WOW!! JEEZE! LOLOOL OXOXOX LOLLLLOLMLOLOL OMG UR SO HOT HOH-LEE SHIT!!!!! WOW!!!!!! DON'T GO NOWERE ILL B RITE BACK!!! LOL!!!!1
:D <33333334
:3 ;3 <33 :'y !!!
UH... OKAY. I SEE WHY YOU...
OOPS--
BOOP!!
...WANTED TO CLARIFY THE DRUNK PART...
I CLOSED IT AGAIN.
JIRO STOP TOUCHING THINGS!!
I'M SORRY, I'M NERVOUS!!


NNGH!!! JUST GIMME THE PHONE BACK!!!
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
NO, NO!! I GOT IT!! I'M HELPING!!
VIOLENT ELBOWING!!
I KNOW WHAT IT SAYS NOW, SO GIMME THE PHONE!!
HUH?
WHEN DID YOU GET TAISEI'S NUMBER?
CONTACTS
SAKANA RE
MOM
TASAKI AR
TACHIBANA
ADD NEW
THE OTHER DAY ON YOUR DATE.
WHAT'S IT MATTER?
GRAB!
NOW, PLEASE JUST...
BOOP
SHUT UP FOR A SECOND WHILE I TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THIS MEANS.
....
...?

...
...
....?
....?!
....!?
?!??!!!!?
YUUDAI...
HM?


WERE YOU TRYING TO TEXT TAISEI?

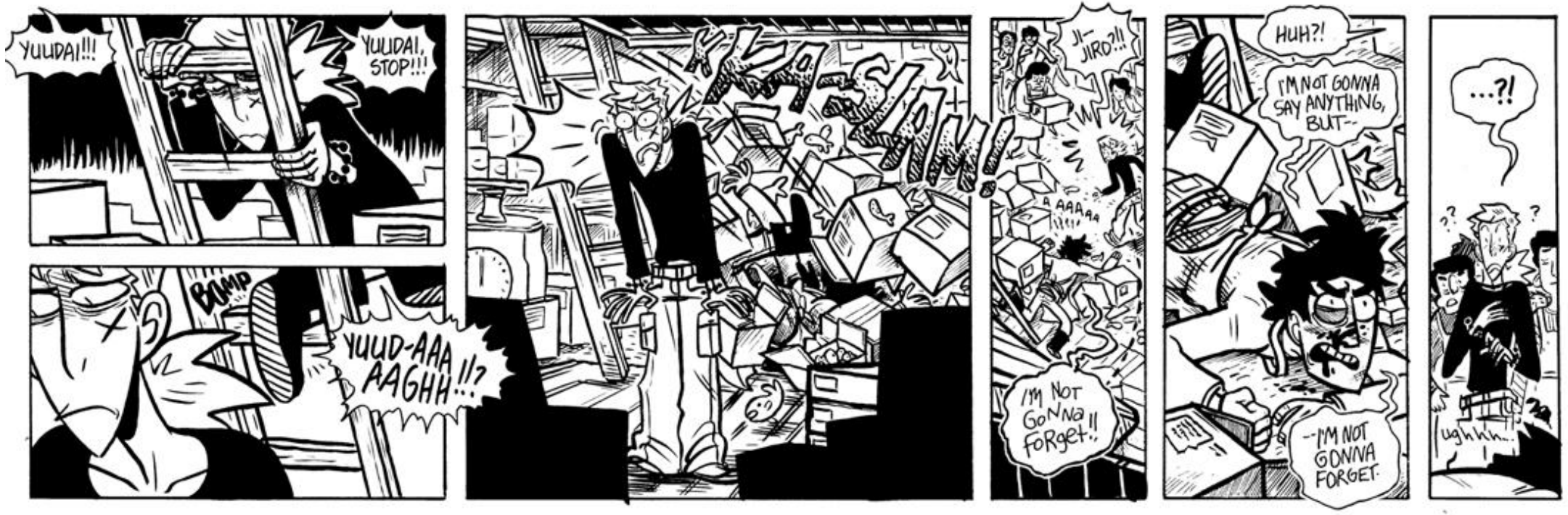
WH--
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!
D-DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!!
I DON'T NEED THIS! YOU CAN'T--
I'M NOT MAKING FUN OF YOU! I'M SERIOUS!
I TOLD YOU I HATED HIM!
BOK!!
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T MEAN IT! YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT ARATA, I GET THAT, I DO!!
JUST THINK ABOUT THIS FOR A SECOND!
YOU WERE TEXTING SOMEBODY WITH YOU! SOMEONE RIGHT THERE!
WAS I?
YOU'RE ASKING SOMEBODY TO DATE YOU! NOT TO GET BACK TOGETHER!
IS THAT THE SAME THING?
WOULD YOU REALLY DESCRIBE ARATA AS "CUTE" AND "ADORABLE"?!
...
LOL
SWIP
HOLY SHIT I WAS TRYING TO TEXT TAISEI.

HAH!! A-HAH!! AHAHA!! JIRO!!!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?!
YOU...
CLASP!!
EXACTLY!!
I TEXTED THE WRONG GUY!!!
I WANNA GET WITH TAISEI!!!
OH MAN, HAHA-HAH-- THIS IS SUCH A RELIEF...
I DON'T SECRETLY WANT TO BE MISERABLE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!!
I WAS JUST REALLY DRUNK!!
I'M...HAPPY FOR YOU, MAN...
HAH! THANKS, JIRO.
THERE'S JUST ONE THING.
PAT.
HM?
YOU CAN'T.
BE MEAN. TO TAISEI.
CLENCH.

A-HAH!!
WAP!
DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF, TARO.
LISTEN, YOU CAN BE MEAN TO ME BUT NOT TAISEI!!
YOU WEREN'T THIS FIRED UP ABOUT THE DRUNK KISSING.
TH-THAT'S DIFFERENT!! THIS IS LIKE--LIKE RELATIONSHIP STUFF!! THERE ARE IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER!!
WOW, AM I ABOUT TO GET SOME ADVICE FROM DATING MASTER JIRO SAKANA?
I'M SERIOUS!!
THERE ARE THINGS YOU NEED TO KEEP IN MIND WITH TAISEI!
HE'S...
HE'S SENSITIVE!
I THINK WE SHOULD PLAN SOME TIME TO SIT DOWN AND GO OVER OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR EACH OTHER...
BEST FRIEND TO POTENTIAL PARTNER, OKAY?
WHOA, WHOA!!
HAHA, LET'S BE REAL FOR A SECOND!
YOU DON'T THINK I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO DATE TAISEI,
DO YOU?

OKAY, OKAY, YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M THINKING TOO FAR AHEAD.
OF COURSE YOU CAN'T START OUT DATING...
TAP TAP
ugh...
FIRST! YOU COME TOGETHER FOR AN INTEREST MEETING!
OH MY GOD.
TOGETHER!
AND DURING THE MEETING, YOU ASK IF, HYPOTHETICALLY, HE'D BE COOL WITH DATING A GUY--
WAIT, WAIT!!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S INTO GUYS?!
W-WELL NO, I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE... BUT THAT'S WHY YOU THE INTERESTED PARTY, WILL MEET WITH HIM AND POSE THE QUESTION...?
AND WHAT IF HE'S NOT?
THEN HE'LL JUST BE YOUR FRIEND IF YOU LET HIM!
THIS IS A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR YOU!
I MEAN... IF YOU DON'T ACT LIKE AN ENORMOUS JERK.
THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
RESIST ALL URGES TO PUSH SOMETHING OVER AND TELL HIM TO PICK IT UP--
WHP
OKAY, I GET IT!!

SURE, OKAY.
I COULD BE NICER IF I TRIED...
BUT HOW DOES ARATA FIT INTO THIS FOOLPROOF ROMANCE SCHEME?
ARATA?
HE...UH... DOESN'T?
WELL HE SHOULD.
BECAUSE HE DEFINITELY THINKS THAT TEXT WAS MEANT FOR HIM.
CAN'T YOU TELL HIM TO, UH...
GET LOST?
HAH!!
HAHAHA!! A-HAH!!
YEAH, 'CUZ YOU SAW HOW WELL THAT WORKS!
WH-WELL-- W-WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!
HAH! JUST FORGET IT.
JUST FORGET THIS WHOLE CONVERSATION, OKAY?
WHAT?! NO!! I'M NOT GONNA JUST--FORGET ALL THIS!!
THEN WE'RE DONE HERE.
TH-THAT'S CRAZY!! YOU CAN'T TELL ME ALL THAT STUFF AND NOT EXPECT ME TO HEL--
THERE'S NO "EXPECT." I DON'T WANT YOU TO.
THIS IS OVER.
THANKS FOR LISTENING.


YUUDAI!!!
YUUDAI, STOP!!!
BUMP
YUUD-AAA AAGHH!!?
KO-SHAN!!
JI- JIRO?!!
AAAAAA
I'M NOT GONNA FORGET..
HUH?!
I'M NOT GONNA SAY ANYTHING, BUT--
--I'M NOT GONNA FORGET.
...?!
ughhh...

ugh..
COME ON, GET UP.
I'LL GET THE MED KIT.
guh-?
AWW, I GET IT! THAT WAS JUST A TOUGH GUY ACT!
YOU DO CARE!
I I TOUCHED-!
WH-- NO!!
YOU'RE BLEEDING!
I'M JUST-
THE OLD YUUDAI --SNNGKTgh--
WOULD HAVE LAUGHED AT ME!
THE OLD YUUDAI?!
UGH--JUST-- IF YOU DON'T STOP THE BLEEDING IT'S GONNA GET ALL OVER YOUR APRON!
OKAY?!
AND WE ALREADY LOSE ENOUGH OF THESE TO-
... TARO...

HM...
UH.
WE WERE JUST--
I-IT'S NOT...
IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LI-
AAAAAAAA
TARO, NO!!!

NAME: RYOJI NISHIMURA
DOB: NOVEMBER 28
AGE: 57

DRAMATIC AND
DANGEROUS.

CHAPTER:XIV

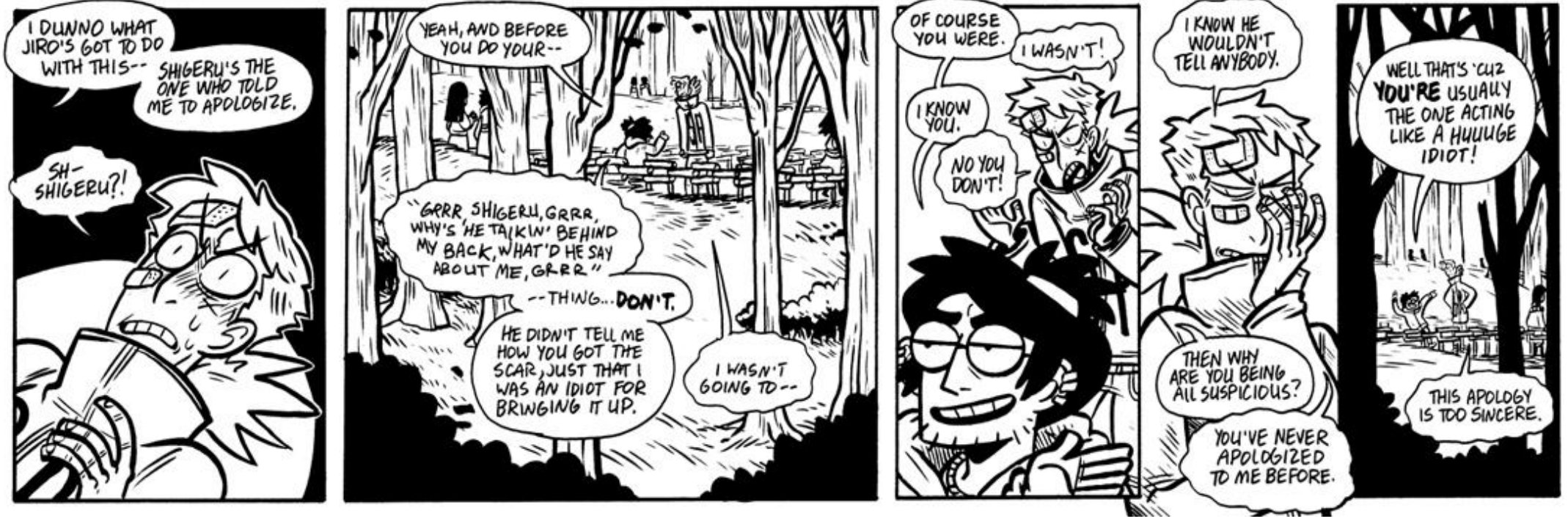
A FEW MINUTES AGO ~
ALRIGHT, EVERYBODY, WE'VE GOT A REPAIR TEAM WORKING ON THE ICE MACHINE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK ON CLEANUP.
WORK SHOULD START AT THE NORMAL TIME TOMORROW.
SAKANA
BYE, MICHIO.
HM.
BYE GUYS.
BYE, TARO!
WAIT... WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
SEE YA, TARO.
LOOKING FOR YOUR BROTHER?
HUH? UH, YEAH! AND YUUDAI I GUESS...
I SAW THEM OUT BACK.
IN THE BACK-STOCK?
TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING.
ARGUING ABOUT SOMETHING?
I DIDN'T SAY ARGUING.
BUT WHEN AREN'T THEY ARGUING?
TRUE.
BUMP
RRGH- THIS BETTER NOT STILL BE ABOUT SATURDAY NIGHT.
AND WATCH OUT FOR THE YAMAMOTO GIRL.
JIRO'S NEW GIRLFRIEND?
HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?
THE WHOLE MARKET KNOWS ALREADY!
AND THEY BOTH WORK REALLY CLOSE TO US.
TRUE.
HMMMMH.

JIRO?
..YUUDAI?
OH, YOU'RE BACK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HU HU HU HU HU
WATCHING THE STALL WHILE JIRO TALKS WITH TANAKA.
WHY WERE YOU BEHIND THE REGISTER?
I DROPPED SOMETHING.
...BEHIND THE REGISTER?
MY CELLPHONE FELL OUT OF MY POCKET AND SLID UNDERNEATH IT.
...NOW IT'S YOUR CELL--?
!!!
KA-SLAM!!
WHOOPS, THAT DIDN'T SOUND GOOD!
HEY!
WE BETTER GO CHECK IT OUT!

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!!
SLOW IT DOWN, LADY!!! THIS IS MY STALL AND I'M IN CHARGE RIGHT NOW!
SO YOU STAY RIGHT THERE!
AND DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS!
I'VE GOT MY EYE ON YOU.
UH-OH! EVERYTHING'S ALL KNOCKED AROUND BACK HERE!
MAYBE THEY HAD A FIGHT?
LET'S NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS...
YUUDAI KNOWS I'D KILL HIM IF HE EVER LAID A FINGER ON JIRO.
THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST OUT BACK,
LIKE KENTO SAID--
AAAAAAA
TARO NO!!!

A FEW MINUTES LATER
HAHA, WOW!
WHAT A HILARIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING, HUH, YUUDAI?
YEAH.
HILARIOUS.
HEYYYY, AND YOU GOT YOUR SWEATER BACK AND SOME EXTRA CASH FROM TACHIBANA, AND... UH...
YEAH!
WHAT A FANTASTIC DAY IT'S BEEN.
YEAH! HEY! COULD YOU GUYS GIMME A MINUTE?
I'LL CATCH UP.
OH... SURE, UH...
BYE, YUUDAI! UH... BE SAFE...
YEAH.
THANKS.
WHOOPS, HAHA, NOT YOU, BUDDY!
WE GOTTA CHAT!
WHEN WILL THIS NIGHTMARE END.

WHAT DO YOU WANT, SAKANA?
WHOA! HAHA, NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL!
UH, Y'SEE... THE OTHER DAY. AH...
AHH-AHAHA, WELL... BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'M ACTUALLY KIND OF BAD AT THIS SORT OF THING...
HAHA--
BUT, I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT I'M
THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG. I'M LEAVING.
NO, NO, NO, WAIT!! I-I KNOW YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANNA HEAR THIS AFTER I JUST PUNCHED YOU IN THE FACE, BUT--
'CUZ I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT IT, SO... I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT!!!
THE OTHER DAY I CALLED THAT SCAR ON YOUR FACE A SCRATCH AND, UH...
IT WAS A CRAPPY THING FOR ME TO SAY.
...
...?
WHAT? WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?
I'M BEING SERIOUS!
I'M JUST...
TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW YOU TALKED TO JIRO WITHOUT ME NOTICING.
...BEING SNEAKY IS MY THING...


I DUNNO WHAT JIRO'S GOT TO DO WITH THIS--
SHIGERU'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO APOLOGIZE.
SH-SHIGERU?!
YEAH, AND BEFORE YOU DO YOUR--
"GRRR, SHIGERU, GRRR, WHY'S HE TALKIN' BEHIND MY BACK, WHAT'D HE SAY ABOUT ME, GRRR"
--THING... DON'T.
HE DIDN'T TELL ME HOW YOU GOT THE SCAR, JUST THAT I WAS AN IDIOT FOR BRINGING IT UP.
I WASN'T GOING TO--
OF COURSE YOU WERE.
I WASN'T!
I KNOW YOU.
NO YOU DON'T!
I KNOW HE WOULDN'T TELL ANYBODY.
THEN WHY ARE YOU BEING ALL SUSPICIOUS?
YOU'VE NEVER APOLOGIZED TO ME BEFORE.
WELL THAT'S 'CUZ YOU'RE USUALLY THE ONE ACTING LIKE A HUUUGE IDIOT!
THIS APOLOGY IS TOO SINCERE.

BUT THIS TIME IT'S DIFFERENT.
I CAN TELL I'M THE ONE IN THE WRONG.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR SCAR IS A PRETTY BIG DEAL FOR YOU.
AND I KNOW WE'RE NOT CLOSE BUT WE'VE BEEN COWORKERS FOR FOUR YEARS.
WE SEE EACH OTHER ALMOST EVERY SINGLE DAY...
THAT'S WORTH SOMETHING RIGHT?
T-TARO...?
SO THAT'S WHY...
I'LL OWE YOU A FAVOR!
A FAVOR?
YEAH! I USUALLY ONLY DO THIS KIND OF THING FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, BUT...
I THINK YOU STILL APPLY!
WHAT KIND OF FAVOR?
OH, Y'KNOW, LIKE... I'LL HELP YOU MOVE, OR COVER A SHIFT, OR SPOT YOU A FEW BUCKS, OR...
TAKE CARE OF A TROUBLESOME PERSON...
STUFF LIKE THAT!
ARE YOU SURE SHIGERU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING...?
SEE!!
I KNEW YOU WERE GONNA SAY THAT!!

OKAY, I KNOW CHATTING CIVILLY WITH ME IS PROBABLY LIKE TORTURE FOR YOU--
SO I'LL QUIT WASTING YOUR TIME.
MH.
SEE YOU TOMORROW, I GUESS!
AND FEEL FREE TO CALL IN THAT FAVOR ANY TIME.
I'LL JUST GET IT OVER WITH RIGHT NOW.
HUH?
GIVE THIS MONEY BACK TO TACHIBANA, OKAY?
TELL HIM, UH... NO HARD FEELINGS...
HAH!
I KNEW YOU WEREN'T GONNA ACCEPT THE CASH.
BUT THIS DOESN'T REALLY COUNT AS A FAVOR.
LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS ARE JUST SOMETHING FRIENDS DO FOR EACH-OTHER!
LATER!
I DIDN'T SAY WE WERE FRIENDS!!
FOLLOW YOUR HEART, CHAMP.
SHUT UP!!!

HEY, THANKS FOR WAITING UP!
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING TO YUUDAI ABOUT?
JUST SOMETHING I SAID THE OTHER DAY. NO BIG DEAL.
NO BIG DEAL? WE HEARD HIM YELLING ALL THE WAY OVER HERE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GUYS PUT UP WITH HIM!
OH, HE'S MOSTLY HARMLESS, HE JUST NEEDS TO CHILL OUT.
WELL, THAT'S PROBABLY HARD FOR HIM, CONSIDERING ALL THE STUFF HE'S DEALING WITH...
WHY? WHAT'S HE DEALING WITH?
!!!
AH--
HE'S... HAHA?!?
HE'S-- YOU KNOW HOW HE IS!!
IN FACT!
WIP WIP
WIP
I DON'T EVEN KNOW-- HAHA-
--WHY I SAID THAT!
HAHA-- WOW, WHAT A LONG DAY!
SCOOT
I SURE AM READY TO GO HOME AND NOT TALK ABOUT WORK!

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT WORK, LET'S TALK ABOUT TOMORROW NIGHT!
!!
WHAT'S TOMORROW NIGHT?
WE'RE GOING OUT TO DINNER!
OH.
HMM. GREAT.
AND MY SISTER'S COMING TOO.
HOLD UP.
WHY'S SHE COMING?!
SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO "LIVEN UP THE PARTY."!
SHE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE LAST TIME!
AND YOU DIDN'T?
I'M DIFFERENT!!
YOUR SISTER DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOU!
BUT MY BROTHER IS--
WAP!
...HE'S... MNN...
...PERFECT IN EVERY WAY.
YEAH, OKAY.

WELL, NO NEED TO WORRY, DEAR BROTHER.
I'LL JUST COME ALONG TOO!
What a good Brother~
YES! JUST IN CASE SHE TRIES SOMETHING FUNNY!
EXACTLY!!
NOW WE NEED A DATE FOR MY FRIEND SANGO, WHO'S ALSO COMING!
SHE'S TOTALLY IN CONTROL OF THIS WHOLE SITUATION...
YEAH... REENFORCEMENTS...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR ROOMMATE?
YEAH, PERFECT...
W-WAIT!!
WE CAN'T TAKE TAISEI!
REALLY?
THIS SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING HE'D BE TOTALLY UP FOR!
W-WELL YEAH, B-BUT... UH...YOUR FRIEND SANGO IS--IS REALLY SHORT, RIGHT? A-AND TAI CAN BE KINDA CLUMSY...
ERR...I-I JUST DON'T THINK IT'S...UH...
UH, A GOOD IDEA?
OH... ALRIGHT?
I GUESS THIS IS YOUR DATE...
BUT I DON'T WANNA BE THE ONE TO TELL TACHIBANA HE'S NOT INVITED TO SOMETHING...
!!!

I-I M-MEAN, IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL, RIGHT?
I-IT'S THE SECOND DATE... THE DICEY STUFF HAPPENED ON THE FIRST DATE, RIGHT?
TH-THERE'S NO NEED FOR HIM TO BOTHER WITH ALL THIS, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT, I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU THIS TIME!
PUSH
AHEM—HAHA, I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU, JIRO.
BUT JUST BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE TO COME DOESN'T MEAN HE WON'T WANT TO.
REMEMBER THE LAST TIME WE TRIED TO LEAVE HIM HOME?
COME ON, TAISEI! YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE GENJI!
WHY WOULD YOU EVEN WANT TO COME TO HIS BIRTHDAY PARTY?
Buhuhuh
Bhuhuhhh
BUHHH
BUHHHHH
BBUHHH
I DON'T EVEN WANNA GO.
I-I CAME UP WITH THE B-BEST PRESENT AND E-E-EVERYTHING!!
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T DESERVE IT, TAISEI.
IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COOUUNNTTS
SO, I MEAN, Y--OH... THERE HE GOES.
I'M GONNA FIX THIS!!!
SCOOT AGAIN
I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU BOTH LATER!!!
BYE, JIRO!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!

NOW ARRIVING!
NOW ARRIVING!
NOW ARRIVING!

STATION
huff huff
huff

YUUDAI!!!
YUUDAI TANAKA!!!

I KNOW YOU HEARD ME!!

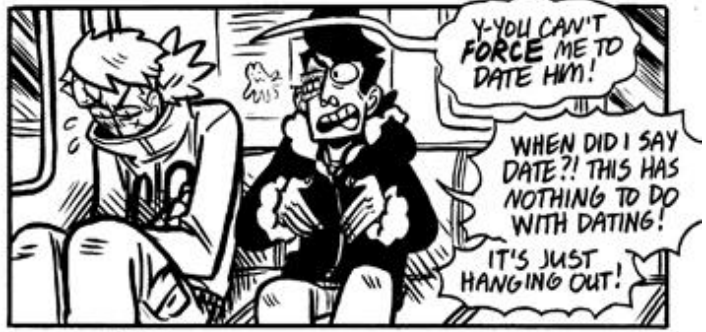
DOORS ARE CLOSING!
DOORS ARE CLOSING!
HUFF HUFF
HUFF!
DOORS ARE CLOSING!
SHUT!
YYYEEAHH!!
huff
huff
huff
huff
???
huff
huff
huff
huff
THIS BETTER BE REALLY IMPORTANT, JIRO SAKANA.

NO.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN LET ME FINISH!

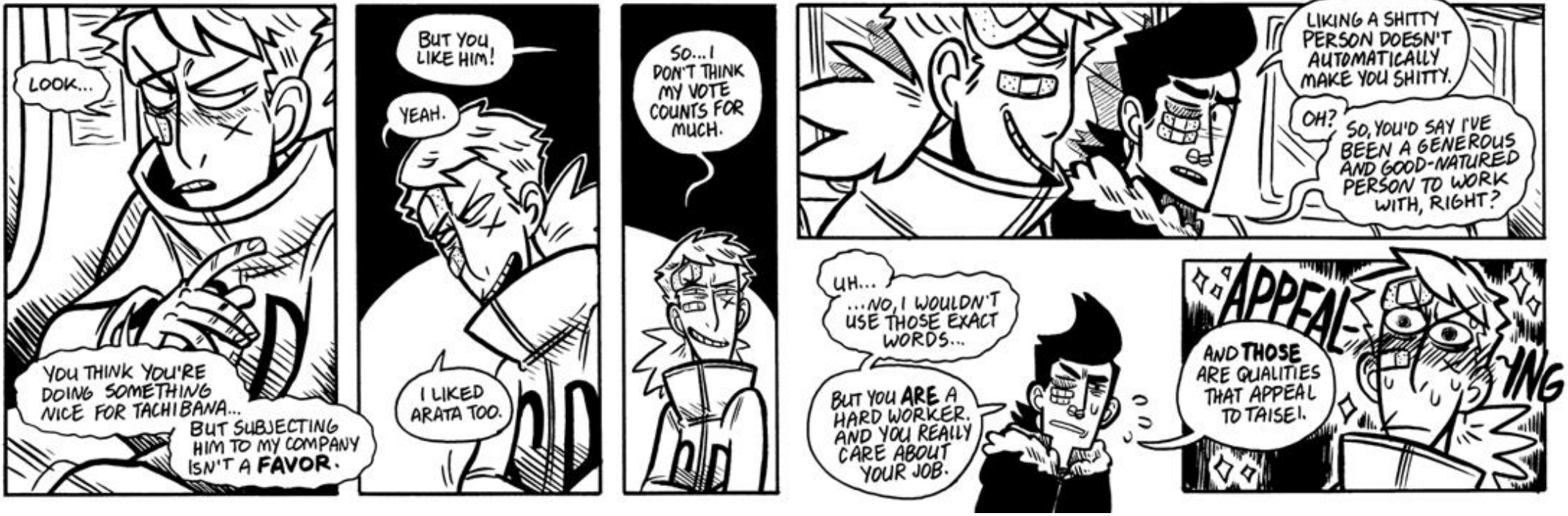
IT STARTED WITH "CAN YOU--."
SO, NO. I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT.
LISTEN, THIS ISN'T A FAVOR FOR ME!

IT'S FOR TAISEI!
NOW THAT I KNOW YOU LIKE HIM... IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT TO BRING HIM ALONG ON MY SECOND DATE.
BUT I DON'T WANT HIM TO FEEL LEFT OUT, SO...

I WAS WONDERING...
...IF YOU COULD HANG OUT WITH HIM?


Y-YOU CAN'T FORCE ME TO DATE HIM!
WHEN DID I SAY DATE?! THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH DATING!
IT'S JUST HANGING OUT!

WHAT'S THE POINT OF JUST HANGING OUT? THAT SOUNDS SO AWKWARD.
AND LAME.
OH MY GOD, YUUDA!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
YOU'RE MAKING FRIENDSHIP SOUND LIKE AN EXERCISE IN TORTURE.


LOOK...
YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING NICE FOR TACHIBANA...
BUT SUBJECTING HIM TO MY COMPANY ISN'T A FAVOR.
BUT YOU LIKE HIM!
YEAH.
I LIKED ARATA TOO.
SO... I DON'T THINK MY VOTE COUNTS FOR MUCH.
LIKING A SHITTY PERSON DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY MAKE YOU SHITTY.
OH?
SO, YOU'D SAY I'VE BEEN A GENEROUS AND GOOD-NATURED PERSON TO WORK WITH, RIGHT?
UH...
...NO, I WOULDN'T USE THOSE EXACT WORDS...
BUT YOU ARE A HARD WORKER. AND YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT YOUR JOB.
APPEAL-
-ING
AND THOSE ARE QUALITIES THAT APPEAL TO TAISEI.

APPEAL...
YEAH! I THINK YOU TWO HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN YOU THINK!
PLUS, I DON'T WANT HIM TO BE TOTALLY DEVASTATED IF HE GETS LEFT OUT, YKNOW?
DEVASTATED....
DUH hhh
OH NO! ever since TAISEI got totally devastated, he hasn't been he hot, cute self.
DUHHHH he's just wasting away. way 2 go, Yuu-JERK.
boo hoo hoo
boo hoo hoo hoo
boo hoo boo
boo
whatever! who cares?!
YOU DO, DUMBASS!!!
O my GOD

RAAAGHHH--OKAY!!
OKAY, I-I'LL THINK ABOUT IT, OKAY?!
REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT!!

BUT NO PROMISES!! I STILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ARATA TONIGHT!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF MOOD I'LL BE IN TOMORROW.

YOU COULD STAY AT OUR PLACE TONIGHT...
TARO WOULDN'T MIND AT ALL!
ABSOLUTELY NOT. HANGING OUT WITH YOU PEOPLE IS WHAT GOT ME INTO THIS MESS.

THEN...I CAN WALK YOU HOME! I'VE NEVER BEEN TO YOUR APARTMENT!
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.

NOW ARRIVING!
NOW ARRIVING!
NOW ARRIVING!

I INSIST!
OF COURSE YOU DO.

JIRO.
YEAH?
...WHY ARE YOU PUSHING THIS SO HARD?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D EVER BE A GOOD MATCH FOR YOUR BEST FRIEND?
BECAUSE YOU LIKE HIM!
THAT'S A CRAPPY REASON.
NO, I MEAN, YOU LIKE HIM.
THE BIG, LOUD, EXCITEABLE VERSION OF HIM.
I DON'T GET IT.
WELL...HE ONLY EVER GETS ASKED OUT AT WORK, BUT HE ACTS REALLY DIFFERENT THERE...
AND THEN, WHEN THE PERSON REALIZES HE'S THIS HUGE BUNDLE OF ENERGY, AND NOT MR. BUSINESS ALL THE TIME...
THINGS TEND TO...
UH...
END.
I DON'T THINK HE'S EVER DATED SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF WORK, BUT YOU LIKE THAT TAISEI... SO...
I THINK IT'S WORTH A SHOT, AT LEAST!
DOORS ARE CLOSING...
IT COULD BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH OF YOU.
DOORS ARE CLOSING...
WOW...I'M A LITTLE TOUCHED...
DOORS ARE CLOSING!
YEAH, UH... ISN'T THIS YOUR STOP?
NOPE.
PAT

YUUDAI!!!
SHOVE
YUUDAI!!!
SHUT!
AAAAIIII
GOOD FOR BOTH OF US, HUH...?

NAME: HIDEO MURA
DOB: AUGUST 10
AGE: 37

YUUDAI'S
MORTAL ENEMY.

CHAPTER:XV

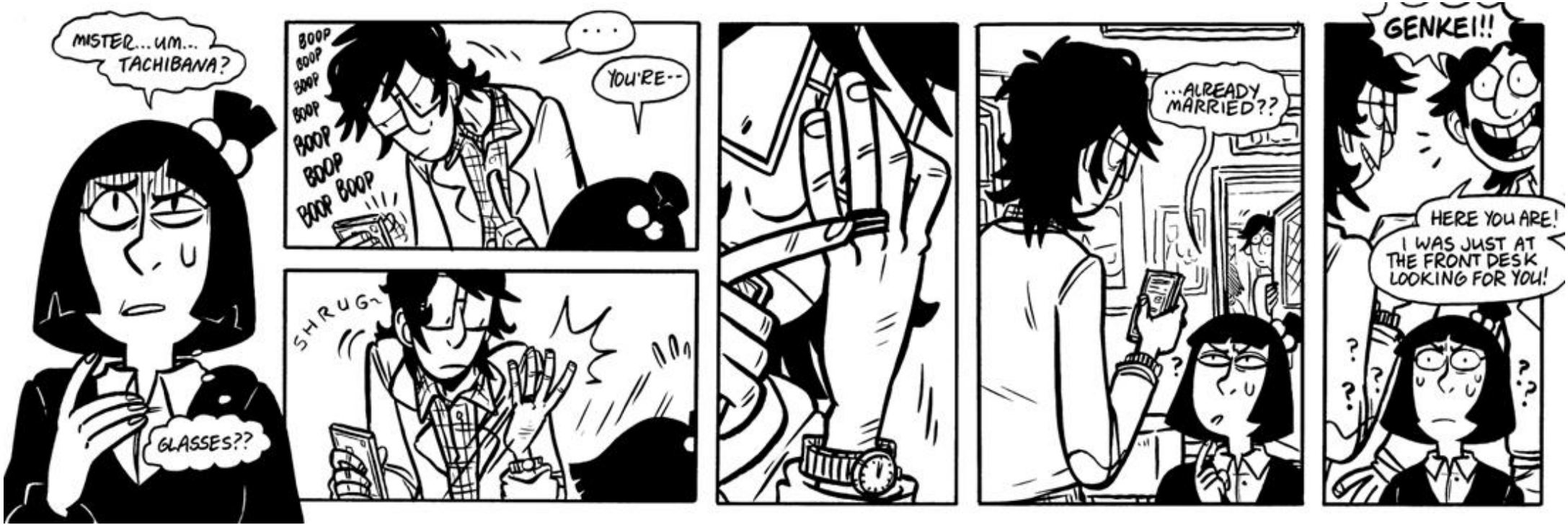
OUR NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO PARTNER WITH LOCAL ANIMATION STUDIOS.
WE WILL USE THE LIKENESSES OF POPULAR CARTOON HEROES FOR OUR FIRST DECAL COLLECTION.
OUR DEMOGRAPHIC IS YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE JUST EARNED THEIR DRIVERS LICENSE.
OH!
VERY INTERESTING!
THIS WILL ALLOW THEM TO CUSTOMIZE OUR SCOOTERS TO THEIR UNIQUE TASTES.
I SEE!
NO-PED SCOOTER CARTOON CHARACTER DECAL PROPOSAL
POW!!
HYPRAMAN
AH... THIS WOULD BE PERFECT FOR MY NEPHEW!
BUT IT'S YOUNGER THAN OUR USUAL DEMOGRAPHIC!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YES, WHAT'S YOUR OPINION, TACHIBANA?
THIS IS THE BEST IDEA I'VE EVER HEARD.
...MR. TACHIBANA?
OH! YES, ER-- KOFF-KOFF--
THIS IS A WELL-RESEARCHED IDEA, MISS SASAKI.
AND WE WILL CERTAINLY TAKE IT INTO CONSIDERATION.

EXCUSE ME, MISS SASAKI.
OH! MR. TACHIBANA!
I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT YOUR TEAM DID AN EXCELLENT JOB ON THE DECALS.
YOU HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT.
THANK YOU, SIR!
WE APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM.
YES! AH... I ALSO HAVE...
...KIND OF A SILLY QUESTION.
COULD IT BE THAT...
YOU ARE A FAN OF HYPRA-MAN?
OH! HAHA-- N-NO, SIR! I GOT THE IDEA FROM MY YOUNGER BROTHER!
HE CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THESE CARTOONS...
BUT... OF COURSE... THEY'RE A LITTLE JUVENILLE FOR MY TASTES.
GAHA-- YES... OF COURSE.

I'LL SEE YOU AROUND, THEN.
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU, MR. TACHIBANA!
OH? WHAT'S UP?
IT'S SORT OF A... PERSONAL QUESTION.
IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE WORKPLACE.
PERHAPS WE COULD SPEAK IN A...
BOOP!
MORE PRIVATE LOCATION...
ACTUALLY, I'M NEEDED AT THE FRONT DESK,
BUT I'LL BE BACK IN MY OFFICE IN A FEW MINUTES.
ALRIGHT, I'LL MEET YOU THERE!
SCORE

SASAKI! WHAT WAS THAT?
ARE YOU...GOING TO ASK HIM OUT?!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE INSENSITIVE TO MISS KANAGAWA?
THEY BROKE UP THREE WEEKS AGO! AND SHE DOESN'T SEEM UPSET ABOUT IT.
WHY **DID** THEY BREAK UP? MR. TACHIBANA IS SO NICE! AND HANDSOME!
I DIDN'T WANT TO PRY TOO MUCH, BUT SHE DID TELL ME THAT...
OUTSIDE OF WORK, HE WAS...
"MORE THAN SHE EXPECTED..."
WHAT COULD THAT MEAN?
H m m m m m m...

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
SHF
HELLO?
OH! YOU'RE ALREADY BACK, MR. TACHIBANA!
I HOPE NOW IS A GOOD TIME FOR OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATION?
BOOP!
HM?
I KNOW WE'RE BOTH BUSY PROFESSIONALS,
SO I'LL KEEP IT BRIEF.
I JUST WANTED TO ASK--
--IF YOU WOULD GO OUT WITH ME--EEEEH??


MISTER... UM... TACHIBANA?
GLASSES??
BOOP BOOP BOOP BOOP BOOP BOOP BOOP BOOP
...
YOU'RE--
SHRUG
...ALREADY MARRIED??
GENKEI!!!
HERE YOU ARE! I WAS JUST AT THE FRONT DESK LOOKING FOR YOU!

DID YOU BRING KAEDE AND MIKI?
UH--
NO? AWWW.
I GUESS I'LL SEE THEM LATER, BUT--
UM...
HUH?
hello.
OH! MISS SASAKI!
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE!
HAVE YOU MET MY OLDER BROTHER, GENKEI?
OH... HAHA, YES, I SEEM TO HAVE MISTAKEN HIM FOR YOU...
GAHAHA!!! REALLY?!
PEOPLE SAY WE LOOK ALIKE, BUT I DON'T SEE IT!
GHAHA-- I DON'T EVEN WEAR GLASSES!
GAHA
HAHA
AHA
HA

HAH-BUT ANYWAY, GENKEI AND HIS FAMILY ARE VISITING FOR THE WEEK!
...OR-
BOOP BOOP BOOP
ACTUALLY, HE'S HERE FOR WORK.
UH... WHAT KIND OF CONVENTION ARE YOU GOING TO, GENKEI?
AVANT GARDE ARCHITECTURAL IDEATION.
YEAH, THAT!
BOOP.
BUT THE REST OF THEM ARE VISITING!
OH...GAHAH-I'M SORRY! I'M BEING SO RUDE! YOU WANTED TO SPEAK WITH ME?
Y-YES...
BUT...I-IT'S NOT TERRIBLY IMPORTANT.
MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME.
OKAY! SEE YOU LATER!
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
THANK YOU!
THAT WAS... MORE THAN I EXPECTED.
AND HERE ARE THOSE AWESOME HYPRA-MAN DECALS I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT!

I KNOW WE WERE GONNA GET LUNCH, BUT MY MEETING RAN LATE.
SO, I'LL HAVE TO SKIP TODAY, I'M SORRY.
I KNOW YOU HAVE WORK TOO, SO LET'S RESCHEDULE FOR NOW.
MM-HM.
BUT HONESTLY, I DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M GONNA GET THROUGH THE REST OF THE DAY.
OH?
WELL...JIRO WENT ON HIS FIRST DATE THIS WEEKEND, AND THAT NIGHT WE ALL WENT DRINKING WITH ONE OF HIS CO-WORKERS.
AND IT WAS NICE TO MEET SOMEBODY OUTSIDE OF WORK!
AND WE ALL HAD A REALLY GREAT TIME! AT LEAST I THOUGHT WE DID. BUT THEIR CO-WORKER WAS REALLY UPSET ON SUNDAY, AND...
I REALIZED I WAS PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO'D HAD A GOOD TIME.
AND NOW I THINK HE HATES ME, AND...
IT JUST... MAKES ME REALLY SAD...
sigh...
flop~
WAP.
AAAAA
NO.

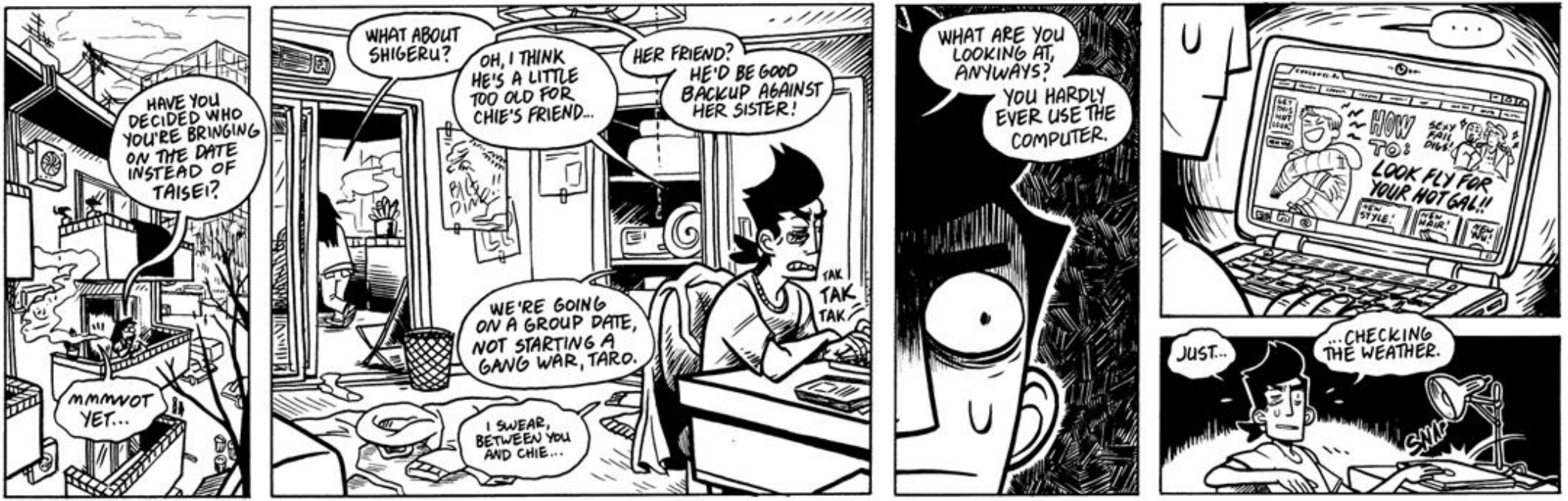
BUT IT'S TRUE!
THIS POOR DUDE JUST WANTED TO SUPPORT HIS FRIEND JIRO, AND I WENT AND RUINED IT!! AAGH- I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!!
YOU'RE NOT.
A NUISANCE.
YOU'RE NOT.
A VILLAIN...
TAISEI.
RING RING
HELLO?
OH!
HI, TARO!
HEY, UH-- OH? TELL HIM WE SAID HI.
UH... ANYWAYS, YUUDAI DIDN'T WANT THE CASH.
CLICK
UGGGGGHH
HE'S NOT TAKING IT WELL.

OKAY, OKAY, HE ACTUALLY SAID "NO HARD FEELINGS."
BUT THAT'S BASICALLY YUUDAI-SPEAK FOR "I NEVER WANNA SEE YOUR FACE AGA--
TARO!!!
GIVE ME THE PHONE!!
TAISEI!! IT'S JIRO!!
J-JIRO?!
YUUDAI DOES NOT HATE YOU!
WHAT??
HE MIGHT BE AN ENORMOUS ASSHOLE WHO LITERALLY JUST PUSHED ME OFF A TRAIN--
BUT I PROMISE HE DOES NOT HATE YOU, OKAY?
YOU HAVE MY WORD AS YOUR BEST FRIEND!
HE PUSHED YOU OFF A TRAIN?!
THAT'S REALLY DANGEROUS!
YEAH I'M REALLY PISSED ABOUT THAT.
BUT ANYWAY, THE POINT IS--
HE DOESN'T HATE YOU, AND YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL BAD, OKAY?
SO, PROMISE ME YOU WON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP ABOUT IT ANYMORE?
...TAI?
FIIIIIINE!! I WON'T BE UPSET!
GOOD!!
AND ANYONE WHO DOESN'T LIKE YOU IS DUMB!!!
AND WRONG!!
PEAS!!!
YOU'RE THE BEST!!!
AWWW HAWW-- JIRO!!!
CW.

UH-HUH, OKAY! THANKS, JIRO!
I'LL SEE YOU GUYS TONIGHT.
BYEEE~!
BOOP
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S GOT A CRUSH!
WHUH-WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?!
I'M FINE!!
I'M AS FINE AS A FINE GUY CAN POSSIBLY BE!!!
MM-HM.

OKAY, OKAY, YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M BEING DRAMATIC.
TACHIBANA
I'M GONNA GET HAPPY NOW.
CHECK THIS OUT...
--HRRRRRgh--
I'M SO HAPPY MY BIG BRO SPENT HIS LUNCH HOUR WITH ME!!
AND I'LL GET TO SEE MY SISTER-IN-LAW, AND NIECE REALLY SOON!
genuine excitement
AND NOW HYPRA-MAN STICKERS EXIST!!!
TACHIBANA
HOW'S THAT?
BOOP
OH...
IS THAT YOUR BOSS? IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO HEAD TO THE CONVENTION?
MM-HM.
WELL, THAT'S OKAY! IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO STOP BY!
OH, AND I HAVE A GREAT IDEA!!
HOW ABOUT I TAKE YOU AND THE GIRLS OUT TO DINNER TOMORROW NIGHT?
THAT'LL REALLY CHEER ME UP!

...
SIT
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK


HAVE YOU DECIDED WHO YOU'RE BRINGING ON THE DATE INSTEAD OF TAISEI?
MMMNOT YET...
WHAT ABOUT SHIGERU?
OH, I THINK HE'S A LITTLE TOO OLD FOR CHIE'S FRIEND...
HER FRIEND? HE'D BE GOOD BACKUP AGAINST HER SISTER!
TAK TAK TAK
WE'RE GOING ON A GROUP DATE, NOT STARTING A GANG WAR, TARO.
I SWEAR, BETWEEN YOU AND CHIE...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, ANYWAYS?
YOU HARDLY EVER USE THE COMPUTER.
HOW TO: LOOK FLY FOR YOUR HOT GAL!!
...
JUST...
...CHECKING THE WEATHER.
SNAP

LOOK, I RESPECT YOUR... "QUALITY OVER QUANTITY" APPROACH TO FRIENDS...
BUT I'VE SEEN SHIGERU BENCH PRESS A 200kg TUNA.
WE NEED THAT STRENGTH ON OUR TEAM!
TARO, HE'S--
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO DATE ANYBODY!
HE COULD JUST STAND BEHIND YOU.
FLEXING MENACINGLY.
I'M SURE SHIGERU HAS BETTER THINGS TO DO ON A TUESDAY NIGHT.
LET'S FIND OUT!
SHIGERU!! HEY!!
HEY, W'SUP?
ARE YOU FREE TOMOR--
N-NOTHING!!
NOTHING'S UP, JUST SAYING HELLO!!
OH, UH... HULLO.
AHH... THAT JERO AHN TARO?
JAN!!!

The SAKANA VOL. 1

KICKSTARTER IS LIVE

MAY 24th-JUNE 24th

please help spread the word, and thanks for all your support!

...
TOLL
SO, THAT'S THE IDEA! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ΔCH SØ! ΔBΘR...
TOLL
"IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME."
PAT PAT
?
"THERE, THERE."
PAT PAT
THUNK

OKAY, HERE'S ME, AND CHIE, AND TARO...
WE'RE GOING ON A GROUP DATE BECAUSE...
date.
??!?
AH.
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT SURE WHY WE'RE DOING IT THIS WAY. IT WAS CHIE AND TARO'S IDEA.
UH... MAYBE YOU SHOULD STEER CLEAR OF HIM AND CHIE'S SISTER.
AND THERE'S YOU AND SANGO.
IS THIS... HELPFUL?
DO YOU GET THE GIST?
TOLL
AH... WHO IS?
THAT'S SANGO. SHE WOULD BE YOUR DATE.
I-I DOUBT UNDERSTAND... ...DATE?
WHAT DATE?
U-UH... A DATE?
LIKE... TWO PEOPLE GO OUT...
AND MAYBE, LIKE... UH...
mwah
mwah
mwah
but--but you DON'T
have to k-kiss anyb—
body if you
you aren't
if you're
too
??
OH!!
OH THAT!!!

ΔΘΘXOΔXΘΘΔOV!!!?
I CΔΘT DO TΔT!? MΔΘ--
MΔΘ JΔΘPOΘNS SUΘCKS!!
SOOOO BΔΘD!!!
NO, IT'LL BE FINE!!
SHE'S NICE!
SHΘ LΘΘF ΔT MΘ!!
NO ONE WILL LAUGH!
ΘH TAISE! ΘΘ THΘΔΘ?
HΘ NOT ΘΘRMΔΘN, BΘT...
BΘT ΔNΘLΔSH ΔT LΔΘST...
N-NO... HE'S... BUSY THAT NIGHT...
B-BUT EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE OKAY! I-I CAN HELP TRANSLATE AND STUFF... AHAH...
Y-YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!
BΘT YOU HΔΘRDLY OUNDΘRSTΔΘND MΘ ΔNΘWΔΘY!!
UH... Y-YEAH, HAHA, SURE! NO NEED TO WORRY!
AFTER ALL...
no one is more nervous about this date than me.
B-BUT, NO--WE'LL HAVE FUN!!
JUST A CO-ED GROUP OF PALS HANGING OUT TOGETHER!
BECAUSE I HAVE MORE THAN TWO FRIENDS, TARO.
I HAVE A LARGE QUANTITY OF FRIENDS!!
...WHΔT YΘOU DOINΘ?
I'M... I'M YELLING AT THE FLOOR BECAUSE...
WELL, TARO'S DOWNSTAIRS AND BEFORE HE SAID, LIKE...
ME AND FRIENDS AND-- quality over quantity...
never-mind, it was a dumb joke...

hmmmmmmmmmmmmNNGGuhHAALRIGT!!
TOLL
I ☺ WATH YEU...
ON DATE WIATH THES GIRL...
BS MABBY .... FUN?
REALLY?! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
BOT... IF LAAF AT ME...
WE LEAVE, YAH?
U-UH, YES! WHATEVER YOU WANT!
A-AN NOT LOBS ME IN CBITY, YAH?
CANNO READ SIONS...
OF COURSE NOT! HAHA--WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU!
AHHH-THIS IS SUCH A RELIEF! -HAHA-
YOU'RE REALLY SAVING MY SKIN!
NOW ALL I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT -HAHA-
AH?
IS THE DATE ITSELF!! HAHA-
HAHAHAHA!
JAN, DID Y'WANT ME TO MAKE DI--
HA HA HA HA HA HA
OH...
DON'T PANIC, THIS HAPPENS SOMETIMES.

HEY, PAL, IS NO SCARED, YEH?
NO SWEAT, WILL BE FUN!
PAT PAT
PAT
THANK FER BRING ME WITH!
FER THINK OF ME!
YOU COUNT ON ME, YEH?
U-UH... SURE! DO YOU THINK...
YOU'LL BE OKAY?
AHAH-I TRY BEST.
PAT PAT PAT
I STUDY! READ HOLE BOOK!
PUT IT ALL IN HEAD!
NO WORRY!
EVERTHING GOING BE FINE!
UH... COME AGAIN?
XXDB GOOD!
UH...
XX XX X XX!
OH MY GOD.
THIS IS A TERRIBLE IDEA.
NOW DON'T GO WORRYIN' B'FER ANYTHING'S GONE WRONG.
IT'LL BE GOOD FER 'IM T'GET OUT N' SEE THE CITY.
-BMP-
BUT LET'S BE REAL, YER UNCLE WOULD KILL BOTH OF US IF Y'LOSE 'IS NEWEST EMPLOYEE.
Japan to German
a POCKET GUIDE

I C'N GIVE 'IM A RIDE WHEREVER YA'LL 'RE MEETIN'.
TRY 'TER TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THE BOOK B'FOR YA HEAD OUT.
THIS BOOK IS GONNA SAVE MY LIFE!
SHOULD BE ENOUGH STICKY NOTES T'GET YA STARTED AT LEAST.
THANK YOU!!
SHUR, JUS' HAVE FUN.
YEAH... UH... SHIGERU....
CAN I, UM... ASK YOU A QUESTION?
YEAH?
WELL... AT THE MARKET TODAY...
I-I WAS HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH... SOMEONE...
AND YOUR NAME CAME UP AND I WAS ...WONDERING IF...
IF... YOU, UH...
IF YOU KNEW... THIS GUY??
...
...I KNOW LOTSA GUYS, JIRO.
HAH-- AH, YEAH. UH...
ACTUALLY...
I-IT'S A GUY ...YUUDAI KNOWS...
YUUDAI?

OKAY, THAT SHUR NARROWS IT DOWN...
IS'SIS LIKE... CODE FER YOU OR YER BROTHER?
DID ONE'A YA PISS 'IM OFF AT WORK OR SUMTHIN'?
N-NO--WELL-- YES, BUT IT'S ... SOMEONE ELSE, I....
I JUST... I...

WAIT... YOU DON'T MEAN-
AHAAA NEVER MIND!!!
J-JUST FORGET I ASKED!!!

KREEE
JIRO--
AHAHA, NO WORRIES!!!
I-IT WAS ... I WAS JUST...
JIRO...
flee
I'LL TELL TARD YOU SAID HEY!!!!!
IT WAS A LONG DAY AT WORK!!
I'M FINE!! DON'T--
NOTHING!!
I WAS--
I'M JUST STRESSED!
I'M-I'M JUST WORRIED, IT'S--
I-IT'S NOT MY PLACE--

SHUT!
ER..... THANKS...?
....

SLAM

Help Wanted
8-PAGE PREVIEW!

NAME: GENKEI TACHIBANA
DOB: SEPTEMBER 09
AGE: 29

DOESN'T TALK.
ONLY STARES.

CHAPTER:XVI

LOLR U HERE
Boop
HEY.
HEYYYYYY YYYYYYYY
THE RECIPIENT'S INBOX IS FULL
BEP!
BEP BEP BEP
-SIGHHH-
24 HOUR INTERNET CAFE

24 HR CAFE
INTERNET CAFE
NO XXX
107
106
106
HONESTLY, I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'RE TRYING TO AVOID ME--
--OR PLAYING SOME KINDA "HARD TO GET" GAME.
BUT EITHER OR...
WHEN YOU SQUIRREL OFF TO THE SAME ROOM-
AT THE SAME CAFE-
TWO BUILDINGS DOWN FROM YOUR APARTMENT-
YEAR AFTER YEAR...
IT MAKES ME THINK YOU'RE NOT TRYING VERY HARD~
TAK
TAK
UGH.

MAYBE I THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE A HINT AND LEAVE ME ALONE.
I LEFT YOU ALONE ALL YEAR!
WELL... I'M BUSY PLAYING SOME KIND OF GAME.
HAH! ARE YOU WINNING?
MAHJONG ONLINE
YOU LOSE.
PLAYER 2 WINS
CLICK CLICK
BING!
TYPICAL...
CLICK CLICK CLICK
IS IT OVER ALREADY?
HMPH-
GOOD, NOW WE CAN CHAT FOR A BIT!
CLICK!
WH--!! I PAID FOR TWO MORE HOURS!!
OH! IN THAT CASE... MAYBE WE CAN SPEND THAT TIME CATCHING U..
NEVERMIND, IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY.
HOW DOES HE MOVE THAT FAST.

WHERE'RE YOU GOIN', BUD?
HOME.
AH, NICE, WE CAN PICK UP SOME BEERS ON THE WAY!
YOU'RE NOT COMING.
WHAAAAT! YOU SAID WE WERE GONNA TALK TONIGHT!
I NEVER SAID THAT!
BUT I'VE BEEN WAITING AROUND ALL DAY TO TALK WITH YOU!
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, NOT MINE.
OKAY, I GET IT.
YOU'RE PISSED THAT I SHOWED UP AT THE MARKET! I WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
SO WHY DON'T WE QUIT ACTING LIKE MORTAL ENEMIES FOR A SECOND--
--AND HAVE OURSELVES A LITTLE HEART TO HEART.

WHAT'S EATIN' YA, BUD?
NOTHING.
HAH--FINE, I'LL GO FIRST.
WHAT'S EATING ME...
...IS HOW LONG IT'S BEEN, Y'KNOW?
YOU SEE SOMEBODY EVERY DAY FOR FIVE YEARS...
...AND THEN ZPOOF! THEY DROP OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
THAT'S HARD TO DEAL WITH!
Y'KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT?
...
HAH, I GUESS THAT WAS A STUPID QUESTION...
PAT PAT PAT
HONESTLY, I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT THAT FIGHT WAS ABOUT!
DO YOU?
NO...
...I DON'T.
...BUT I REMEMBER HOW IT ENDED.

OH... YOU'RE STILL MAD ABOUT THAT...
OF COURSE I'M STILL MAD ABOUT IT!!!
I'VE GOT THIS HUGE STUPID SCAR ON MY FACE!!!
AWW, IT'S... NOT STUPID, IT'S...
STRIKING!
...MYSTERIOUS!
AND IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
JUST A BIG DUMB MISTAKE!
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME ALL YEAR BECAUSE OF ONE DRUNKEN MISTAKE...
Y-YOU PUT ME IN A CAB!!!
I WAS TOO DRUNK TO DRIVE, BUD!
YOU COULD'VE COME WITH ME!!
I WASN'T THINKING CLEARLY!
P-PEOPLE WHO L--LIKE EACH OTHER AREN'T S-SUPPOSED TO--
--WHAT? SCREW UP SOMETIMES?
AND YOU'RE A SAINT, HUH?
YOU'RE EASY TO GET ALONG WITH.
I'M NOT-
--EVER 100% HONEST WITH ANYONE?
YEAH, THAT WAS SUPER FUN TO DEAL WITH FOR FIVE YEARS.
BUT THAT'S WHAT BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP IS, YUUDAI!
FORGIVING EACH OTHER FOR YOUR PROBLEMS!
OF COURSE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN ANOTHER RELATIONSHIP, SO I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO KNOW THAT.
DON'T STRESS ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.

IN FACT... I THINK I SEE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...
YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP FOR SO LONG!
WH–
MAYBE YOU THOUGHT YOU'D SETTLED TOO EARLY!
AFRAID YOU WERE MISSING OUT!
Y'KNOW, FOMO!

THAT'S NOT--
IT'S COOL, I'M NOT JUDGING!
LEMME GUESS HOW IT WENT:
YOU STEWED FOR A YEAR, GOT DRUNK ONE NIGHT, REMEMBERED ALL THE GOOD TIMES WE HAD TOGETHER...
I DIDN'T--

IT'S OKAY, BUD! YOUR TEXT SAID IT ALL!
DON'T SECOND-GUESS YOURSELF!
I KNOW FIVE YEARS SEEMS LIKE A LONG TIME, BUT SOME COUPLES ARE JUST MEANT TO BE!
PLUS, I'M SINGLE, YOU'RE STILL SINGLE... WHY CAN'T WE JUST GET BACK TO--

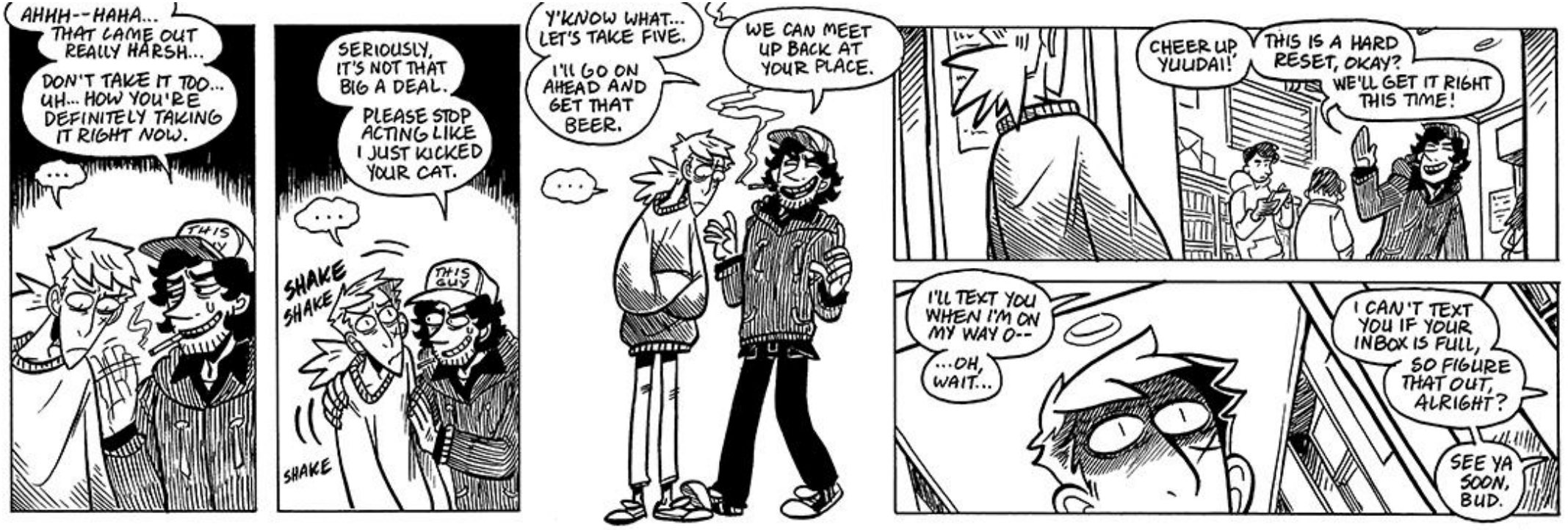
THE TEXT WASN'T MEANT FOR YOU!!!

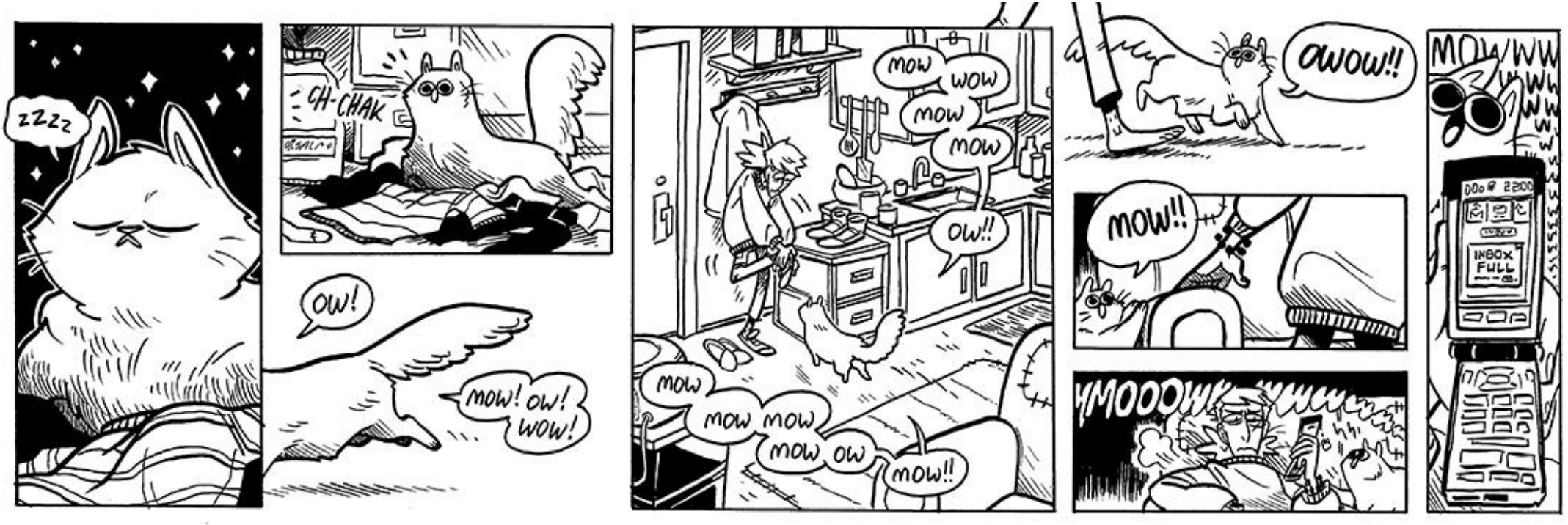
THIS GUY
...

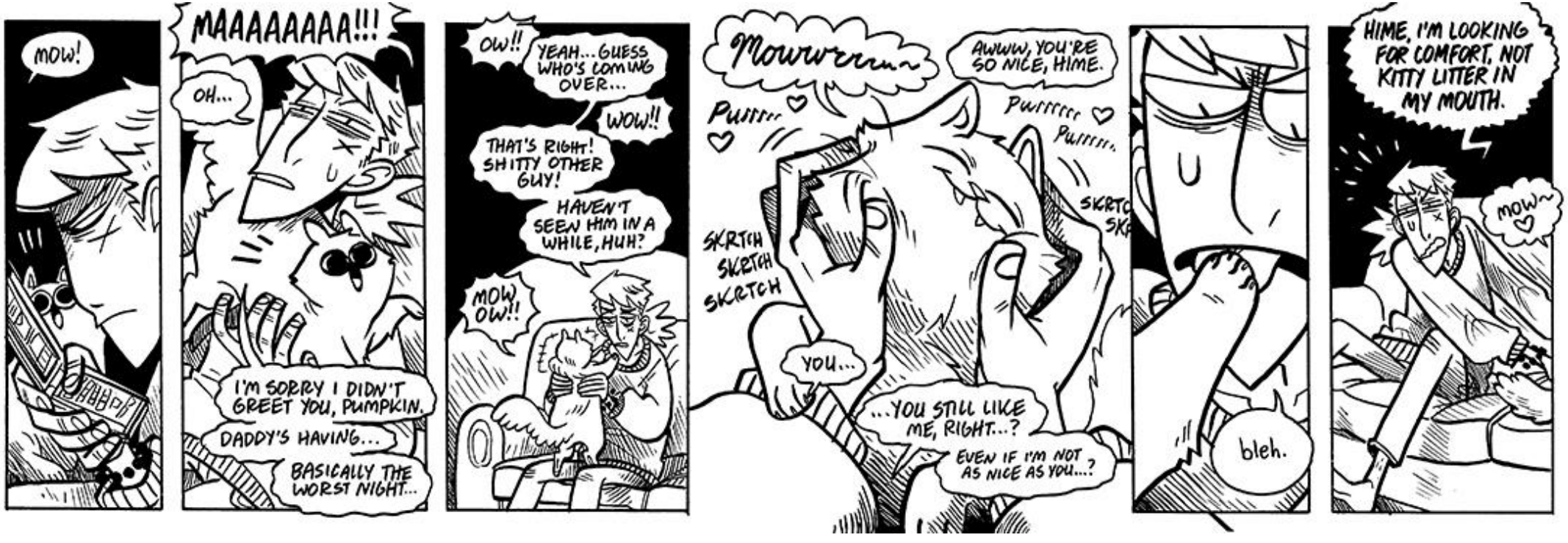
THIS GUY
HUH?

N-NOT FOR ME?!
I SENT IT TO THE WRONG PERSON!! IT WAS A MISTAKE!!
I WAS NEVER GOING TO TALK TO YOU AGAIN, OKAY?!
W-WAIT!!
I MEAN, DID YOU EVEN READ THAT TEXT?!
HOW STUPID DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO THINK IT WAS MEANT FOR YOU?!
WUH-- WELL WHO WAS IT MEANT FOR?!
A GUY I MET!! HE'S NICE! I WAS DRUNK! WHATEVER!!
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, I DON'T HAVE TO SETTLE FOR YOU!!!
I CAN--
YUUDAI, CAN YOU JUST-- JUST WAIT A SECOND, PLEASE!
NO.
I-I JUST WANT TO ASK A QUESTION!
WHAT.
...IF YOU FOUND SOMEBODY ELSE... AND YOU WERE NEVER GONNA TALK TO ME AGAIN... THEN...
...WHY?
THIS GUY
...
...WHY?
WHY WAS MY NUMBER STILL IN YOUR PHONE?

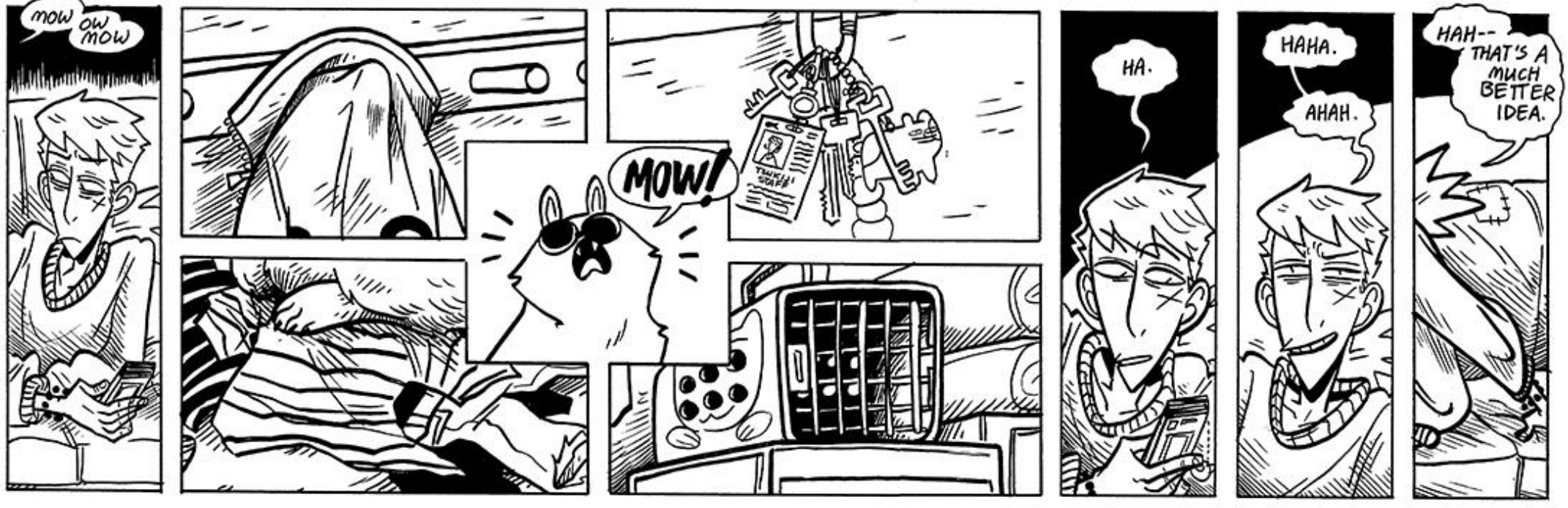
TH— THAT DOESN'T--
COME ONNN, YUUDAI.
IT WAS A RHETORICAL QUESTION.
...SO... THIS GUY THAT YOU LIKE... YOU SAID HE'S .... NICE?
Y-YEAH.
WELL... ARE YOU NICE?
I COULD...
...PRETEND TO BE NICE?
REMEMBER THAT HONESTY PROBLEM WE TALKED ABOUT?
...I COULD BE NICER...
WOULD A NICE PERSON KEEP THEIR EX'S NUMBER JUST IN CASE THINGS WENT SOUTH WITH THEIR NEW FLING?
...NO.
...ARE YOU REALLY GONNA CHANGE YOURSELF FOR SOMEONE YOU ALMOST DRUNK-TEXTED?
....
I MEAN...WHY PUT YOURSELF THROUGH THAT KIND OF STRESS?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHANGE FOR ME. I ALREADY LIKE YOU.
AND REALLY... I DON'T WANNA BE MEAN, BUT...
LET'S BE HONEST...
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PUT UP WITH YOU.
THIS GUY

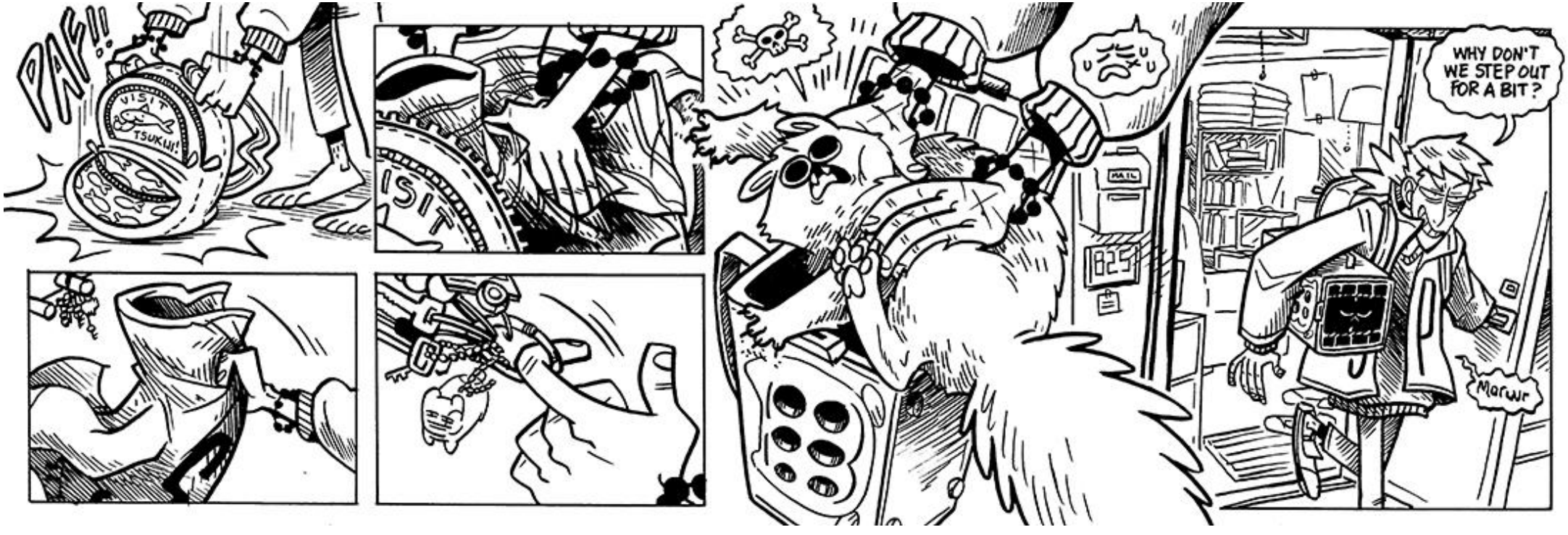

AHHH--HAHA... THAT CAME OUT REALLY HARSH...
DON'T TAKE IT TOO... UH... HOW YOU'RE DEFINITELY TAKING IT RIGHT NOW.
...
THIS GUY
SERIOUSLY, IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.
PLEASE STOP ACTING LIKE I JUST KICKED YOUR CAT.
...
SHAKE SHAKE
SHAKE
THIS GUY
Y'KNOW WHAT... LET'S TAKE FIVE.
I'LL GO ON AHEAD AND GET THAT BEER.
WE CAN MEET UP BACK AT YOUR PLACE.
...
CHEER UP, YUUDAI!
THIS IS A HARD RESET, OKAY? WE'LL GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME!
I'LL TEXT YOU WHEN I'M ON MY WAY O--
...OH, WAIT...
I CAN'T TEXT YOU IF YOUR INBOX IS FULL, SO FIGURE THAT OUT, ALRIGHT?
SEE YA SOON, BUD.


zzzz
CH-CHAK
OW!
MOW! OW! WOW!
MOW
WOW
MOW
MOW
OW!!
MOW
MOW MOW
MOW OW
MOW!!
OWOW!!
MOW!!
MOOOW
INBOX FULL


MOW!
MAAAAAAAA!!!
OH...
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T GREET YOU, PUMPKIN.
DADDY'S HAVING...
BASICALLY THE WORST NIGHT...
OW!!
YEAH... GUESS WHO'S COMING OVER...
WOW!!
THAT'S RIGHT! SHITTY OTHER GUY!
HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A WHILE, HUH?
MOW OW!!
Mowwwwww~
Purrrr
AWWW, YOU'RE SO NICE, HIME.
Purrrrrr
Purrrrr.
SKRTCH SKRTCH SKRTCH
YOU...
...YOU STILL LIKE ME, RIGHT...?
EVEN IF I'M NOT AS NICE AS YOU...?
bleh.
HIME, I'M LOOKING FOR COMFORT, NOT KITTY LITTER IN MY MOUTH.
MOW~

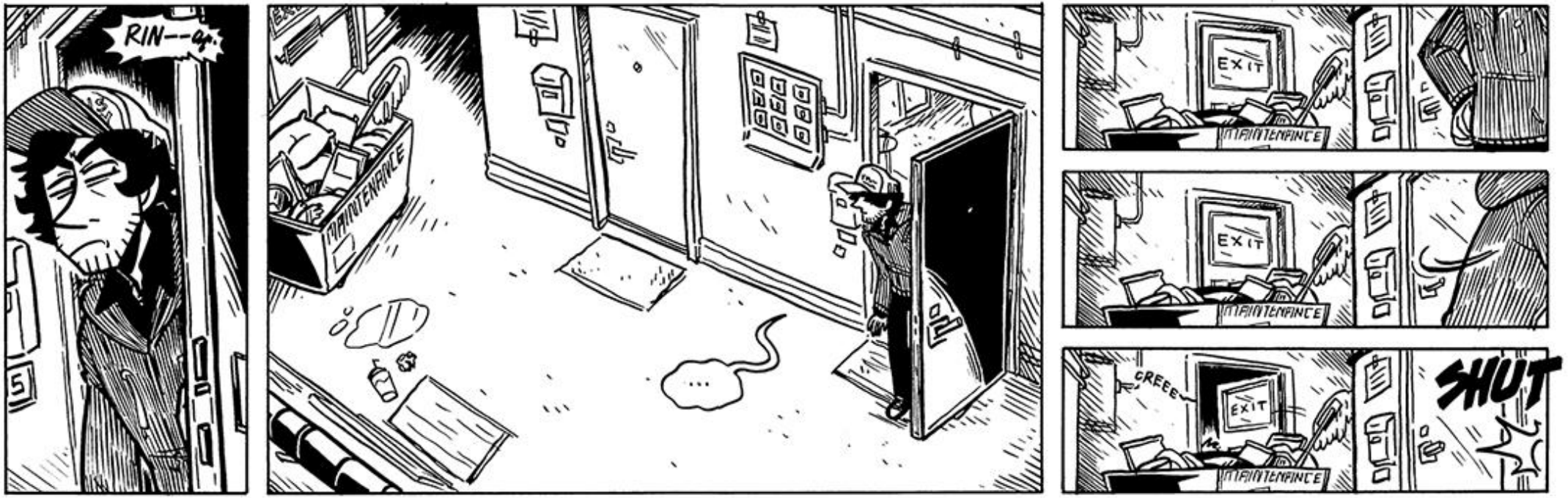
HIME, NOOO. I DIDN'T MEAN IT.
MOWRRRRR!
sighhhh
pof
MOW!
EMPTY INBOX
WOW!! MOW WOW!
MOW!!
owow


MOW OW MOW
MOW!
HA.
HAHA.
AHAH.
HAH-- THAT'S A MUCH BETTER IDEA.


PAF!!
VISIT
TSUKUJI!
VISIT
MAIL
1825
WHY DON'T WE STEP OUT FOR A BIT?
Marwr

HAHA.
YEAH.
CLICK
AHAHA.
CL-CLANG!
FGHghg!!?
UGH, HOW HARD IS IT TO EMPTY A GODDAMN INBOX--
205
HM?

OH, THAT WAS NICE OF HIM!
HRRRgLLL...
CH-CLICK
SCOOT
SCOOT
SCOOT
SCOOT
HMMM... CAT'S NOT AROUND...
AND HIS INBOX IS STILL FULL...
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S STILL BEING DIFFICULT.
BOOP BOOP
RING RING


RIN--g
MAINTENANCE
EXIT
MAINTENANCE
EXIT
MAINTENANCE
CREEE
EXIT
MAINTENANCE
SHUT

CREEEK
APTS
CAFE
a few minutes later...
MOW!
huff
I KNOW -huff- I'M OUT -huff-
OF SHAPE, HIME!!
huff
OW!
YUUDAI'S APT. BUILDING 3 BLOCKS AWAY
BUT-huff- I THINK WE'VE MADE IT -huff- A GOOD DISTANCE...
WE SHOULD BE OKAY N--
RING RING RING RING RING RING

SIGHHh.
MOWWW!!!
NO, HIME.
DADDY IS ENACTING THE PLAN.

HEEEE~LLO!!
...ARE YOU KIDDIN' ME, BUD.
WOW! ARATA! I DIDN'T EXPECT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
WHERE ARE YOU?

OH~Y'KNOW! OUT AND ABOUT!
DON'T BULLSHIT ME, YUUDAI. THAT WAS YOUR PHONE GOING OFF IN THE HALLWAY, WASN'T IT?
HALLWAY? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE CRASHING IN MY APARTMENT WITHOUT MY PERMISSION, WOULD YOU?
I SAID I WAS COMING OVER!
HAH! YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU!

SO, WHEN ARE YOU GONNA CUT THE CRAP AND COME BACK?
HMM--NOT SURE! MAYBE I'LL JUST HEAD TO WORK SUPER EARLY!
THEN I'LL JUST GO AGAIN TOMORROW!
OH-- I HAVE A BETTER IDEA!

WHY DON'T YOU NEVER SET FOOT IN THE MARKET AGAIN.

HMH. WHY SHOULDN'T I?
PTO, ASSHOLE.
PTO?
PAID TIME OFF! ASIDE FROM A FEW WEEKS AFTER YOU RECONFIGURED MY FACE WITH THAT BOTTLE, I'VE NEVER TAKEN A SINGLE SICK DAY!
I COULD TAKE MONTHS OFF!
AND AS SOON AS YOU GO BACK TO WORK, I'LL GET INTO MY APARTMENT AND LOCK THE DOOR BEHIND ME!
WELL... I HAVE PLENTY OF SICK DAYS TOO!
... WHAT.
YEAH, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WORKS HARD, BUD.
I'VE GOT A FEW WEEKS SAVED UP AND I'M GONNA STAY RIGHT HERE UNTIL YOU STOP ACTING LIKE A SHITTY TEEN AND ACTUALLY TALK TO ME.
...
WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW 'EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH' AND 'SHITTY BOYFRIEND' WEREN'T MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE TERMS.
HAHA. AWW.
...WHAT?!
YOU SAID BOYFRIEND!
!?@#!*#?
HAHA, WOW

LISTEN, BUD, I KNOW YOU THINK I'M ACTING LIKE AN ASSHOLE, BUT I'M JUST TRYING TO GIVE US SOME CLOSURE, OKAY?
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS RUN FROM YOUR PROBLEMS.
WHAT'S THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN IF WE TALK TONIGHT?
I TAKE YOU BACK.
WHA-
I-I MEAN-- SO-- THAT'S IT, THEN?!
YOU'RE JUST GONNA SQUAT IN MY APARTMENT AND NOT LEAVE UNTIL I ... WHAT..?
YOU'RE NOT LEAVIN' ME ANY OPTIONS HERE, BUD.
WHAT ABOUT THE OPTION WHERE YOU LEAVE MY APARTMENT?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LEFT HIS KEYS.
AND YOU'RE TAKING OFF WORK FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
...WHAT ABOUT GROCERIES?!
I'LL GET 'EM DELIVERED!
INTERNET?!
I'VE GOT AN UNLIMITED DATA PLAN!
THE RENT'S ALMOST DUE!
THEN I'LL PAY THE RENT, BUT I'M NOT LEAVING THIS SPOT UNTIL WE HASH THIS OUT, GOT IT?
WELL FINE!! JUST STAY THERE!!
FINE!! I WILL!!
FINE!!
FINE!!
FINE!!
FINE!!!
FINE!!
FINE!!
FINE!!
FINE!!
FINE!
FINE!
FINE!
FINE!!
FINE!
FINE
click

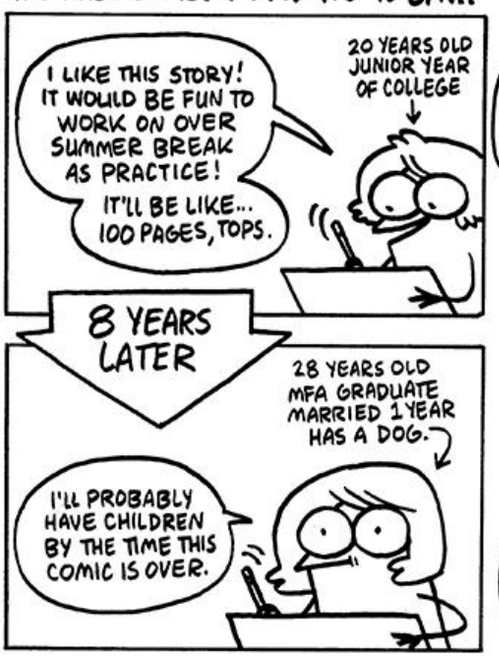
...?
...
TAKAKI ARATA
CALL ENDED
ARATA... DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING...?
BEING SO STUBBORN...
NOT LEAVING MY APARTMENT...
DON'T YOU REALIZE...
ALL OF THIS...
WAS PART OF MY GREAT PLAN--
BOOOOOM
TO KEEP YOU IN THERE--
SO YOU CAN'T BOTHER ME OUT HERE~?
HAH! HAHA! AHAH!! HA! HA! AHHA!! HAHA! HAH!

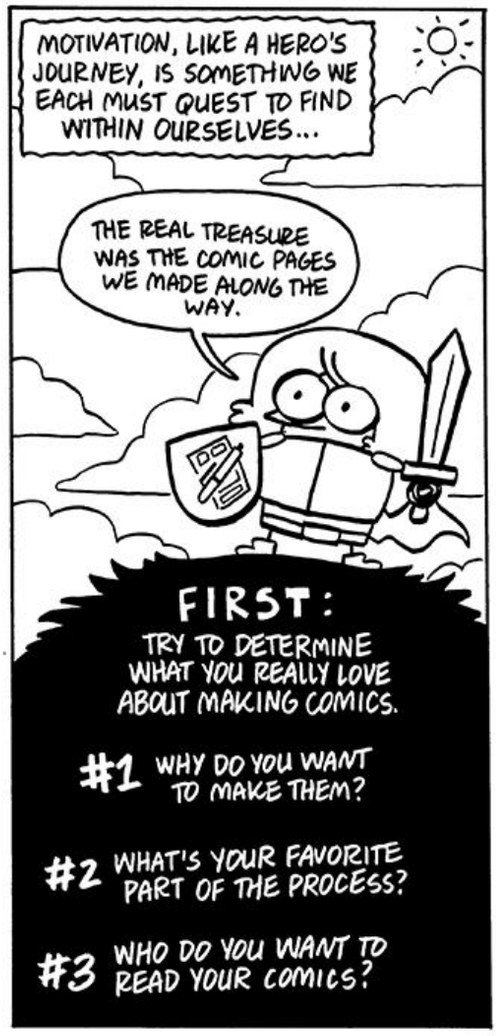
HAHAHAH

KRA-KOOM
THIS IS A TERRIBLE IDEA.

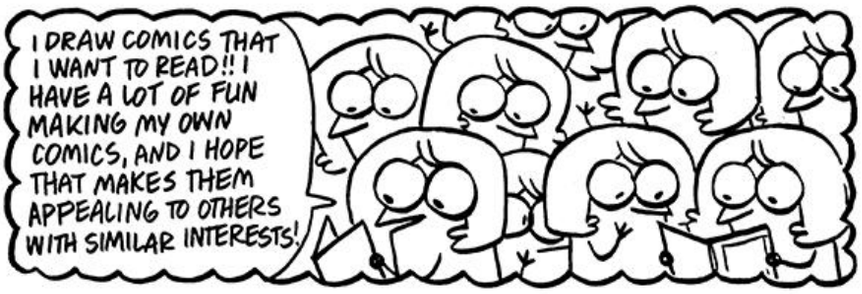
HOW TO SAKANA #2

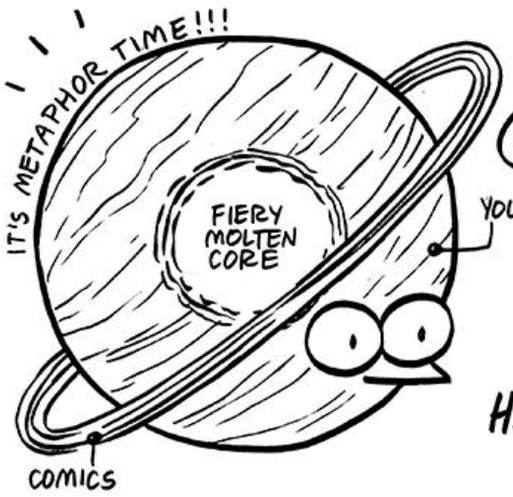
THE ANSWER IS: I HAD NO IDEA...





MY ANSWERS:





THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS MAKE UP YOUR

CORE MOTIVATION.

REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU'RE FEELING ABOUT YOUR WORK OR ARTISTIC PROGRESS, IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WHY YOU LIKE MAKING COMICS IN THE FIRST PLACE! THIS HELPS ME THROUGH PERIODS OF STRESS, ARTIST'S BLOCK, AND PROCRASTINATION.

HERE ARE A FEW MORE TRICKS I USE TO KEEP MY WORKFLOW RUNNING SMOOTHLY:

CONSISTENT CONTENT CREATION!!

CREATE AN UPDATE SCHEDULE THAT YOU CAN STICK REASONABLY CLOSE TO!

EMBRACE ARTISTIC EVOLUTION!!

IF YOU'RE DRAWING LOTS OF COMIC PAGES, DON'T BE AFRAID TO EXPERIMENT AND CHANGE THINGS UP! YOUR FIRST IDEA ISN'T ALWAYS YOUR BEST!

EVERY PAGE IS PRACTICE!!

TREAT EVERY PAGE AS A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN!

SAY NO TO PERFECTIONISM!!

*PERFECTION ISN'T REAL, YOU'LL JUST GET TO A POINT WHERE YOU DON'T CARE AND HAVE MORE FUN ANYWAYS.

REWARD YOURSELF OFTEN!!

SEEK OUT NEW EXPERIENCES AND INSPIRATION!!

PLAN AHEAD AND KNOW YOUR ENDING!!

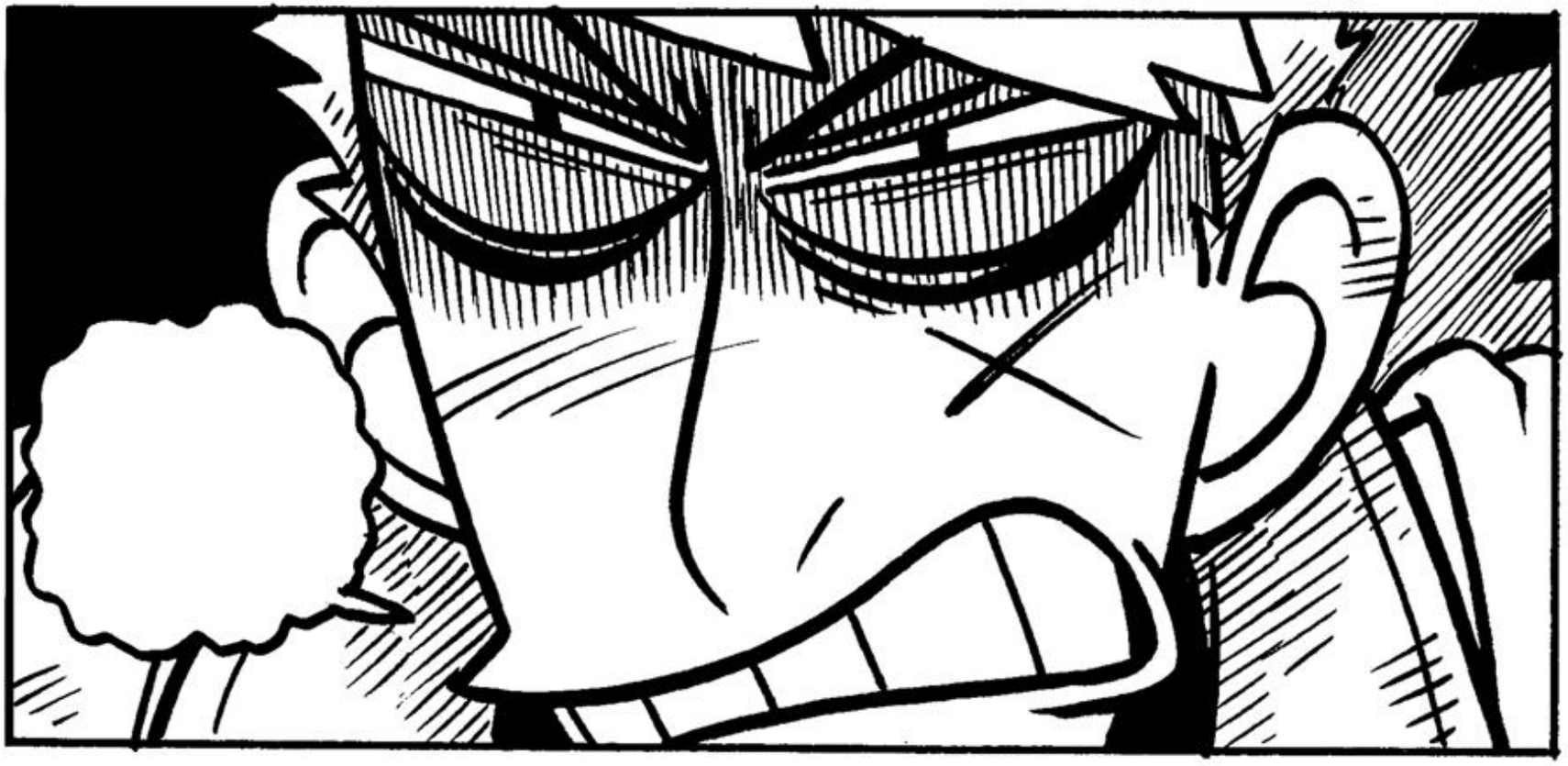
RUNNING OUT OF IDEAS IS A HUGE THREAT TO YOUR PRODUCTIVITY! SO IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO ALWAYS PLAN A FEW SCENES AHEAD OF WHERE YOU'RE ACTUALLY AT IN THE STORY!

IDEALLY, YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW YOUR COMIC ENDS FROM THE START, BUT DON'T BE AFRAID TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IF THE STORY CHANGES!

SAKANA

MAD RUPERT

VOL.3



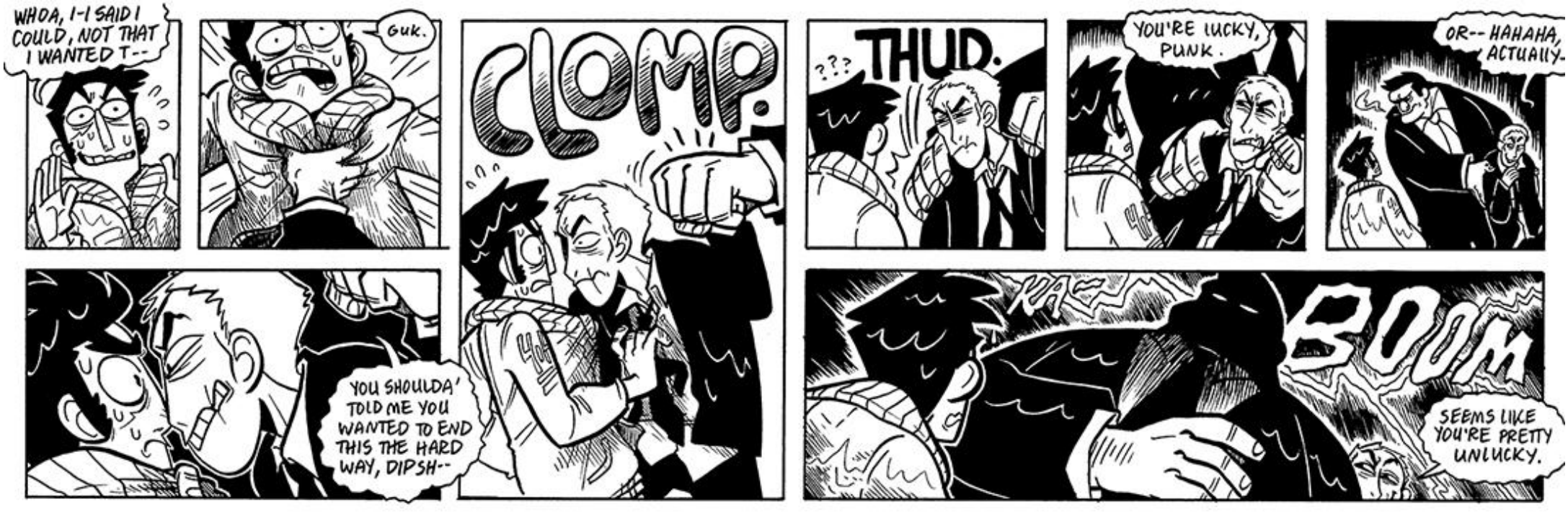
CHAPTER:XVII

ELSEWHERE...
RRUMM
mmble
CL-CLANG!
WHEN YOU'RE POUR?! YOU PAY!!
KRASH!
BAP
BAP
BAP
CLANG!!
I SAID I'D GET YOU YOUR MONEY!
MAYBE IF YOU GAVE ME AN ACTUAL PAY-CHECK--
YOU STOPID!
YOU WORK SO DAMN MUCH!! GO HOME NOW!!
COME BACK TOMORROW!! HAHAHA!!
WORK MORE THEM!! HAHAHA!
PFT.
YEAH, WHATEVER.
WHAT YOU DOING? WHY STOP?
I'M GETTING SOME COFFEE FROM THE VENDING MACHINE.
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
NOW YOU SPEND MONEY POEY ME NO COFFEE.
JAM.
GET OUT OF MY LIFE MRS. CHEN.

grumble-
asshole--
BOOP!
KLA-
-KLANG!
HEY... YOU GOT A LIGHT, PAL?
KEEP MOVIN', PAL.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THI--
WRONG ANSWER, DIPSHIT.

B-BILLY! E-E-ENDO! I-I DIDN'T E-EXPECT TO SEE YOU... UH...
LATE AT NIGHT...
IN A RAINSTORM...
THIS COFFEE SUCKS SHIT.
HAHA-- YEAH!
I-IS MR. NISHIMURA WITH YOU?
HAH!! NAW, WE'RE JUST HERE TO VISIT OUR FAVORITE GUY!
AIN'T THAT RIGHT, BIG MAN?
MN.
OH! REALLY? I THOUGHT YOU GUYS HATED ME!
...
...
OF COURSE WE HATE YOU!!
KLANG!
AGH!
YOU THINK WE WANNA BE HERE?!
ENDO, TELL THIS DUMBASS WHAT'S UP.
THE BOSS SENT US.
YEAH!
AND HE AIN'T THRILLED WITH YOU.

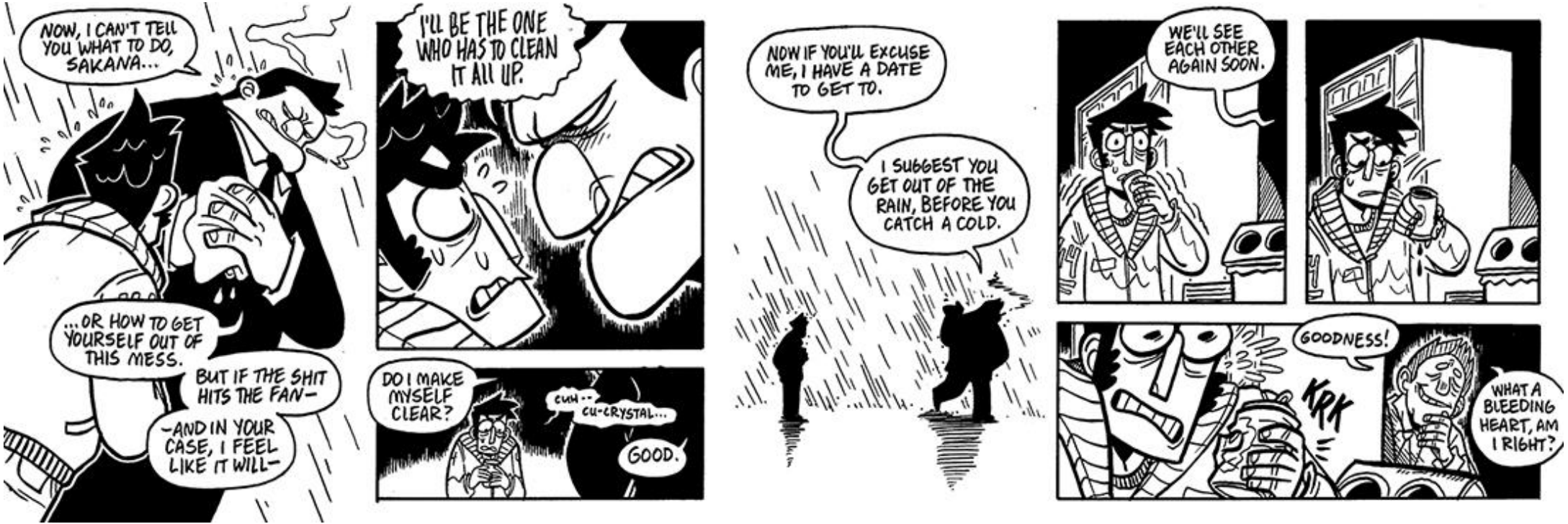
I WAS GONNA DRINK THAT!!
WOW! REALLY?
YOU'RE ONE BAD DECISION AFTER ANOTHER, HUH?
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!
AND WHY ISN'T MR. NISHIMURA THRILLED WITH ME?!
YOU GUYS JUST SHOOK ME DOWN TWO DAYS AGO!
YEAH THE DOOR THING!! MAYBE IF HE'D GIVEN ME A WAY TO PAY HIM BACK THAT WASN'T SO...EMOTIONAL, I COULD GET THE MONEY SOONER!
OH YEAH! HAHA, THE DOOR THING!
THERE'S GOTTA BE ANOTHER WAY!
I DUNNO, MAN, I AIN'T THE IDEAS GUY IN THIS OPERATION.
WHAT ABOUT YOU TWO?! HE'S GOT SOMETHING ON BOTH OF YOU, RIGHT? I COULD DO YOUR JOB!
HAH! YOU THINK YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE HIRED MUSCLE?
I'M MORE MUSCULAR THAN YOU!
I BET I COULD TAKE YOU IN A FIGHT!
...
THAT...
WOULD BE A REAL ~~FUCKIN~~ STUPID IDEA.


WHOA, I-I SAID I COULD, NOT THAT I WANTED T--
Guk.
CLOMP.
???
THUD.
YOU'RE LUCKY, PUNK.
OR-- HAHAHA, ACTUALLY-
YOU SHOULDA' TOLD ME YOU WANTED TO END THIS THE HARD WAY, DIPSH--
KA-
BOOM
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY UNLUCKY.

I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
AW, YOU AIN'T GONNA LET ME HAVE ANY FUN?
HRM.
...I'LL MEET YOU AT THE BAR IN 20 MINUTES.
HAH! HAHA-- IT'S A DATE!
I'M OUTTA HERE!
HAHAHA, IT'S BEEN REAL, SAKANA!
SEE YA IN HELL~!
WH--UH-- HAHA-- Y-YOU CAN'T ...REALLY KILL ME, RIGHT?? Y-YOU--
M-MISTER NISHIMURA WOU-WOULDN'T LIKE THAT, RIGHT?? HAHA-- R-RIGH--
--HIIIGHT?!
RELAX, DIPSHIT.
IT'S JUST SOME POCKET CHANGE.
WHY DON'T YOU GET YOURSELF A NEW COFFEE?

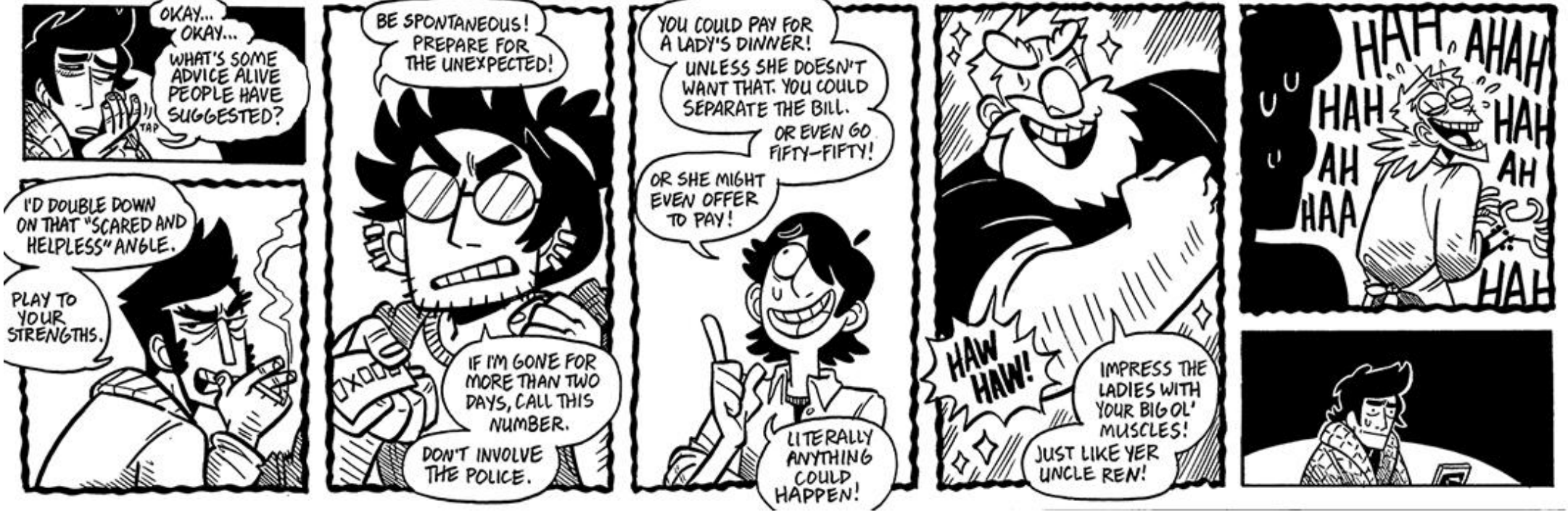
CLINK
SO...Y-YOU'RE NOT GONNA KILL ME?
NO.
OH! G-GREAT!! AH... C-CUZ BILLY MADE IT SEEM L-LIKE...
BILL'S... ENTHUSIASTIC. HE WANTS TO IMPRESS.
...ME?
KLANK!!!
NO, ME, ASSHOLE.
AND THE BOSS, I SUPPOSE.
LOOK, I'LL JUST GET TO THE POINT.
YOU REMEMBER THE LAST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER?
WHEN NISHIMURA SAID IT WAS EITHER YOU OR THE STALL?
...YEAH?
THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS.
HE WANTED US TO MAKE... AN EXECUTIVE DECISION ON WHETHER YOU'D SHOW RETURNS ON HIS INVESTMENT OR NOT.
TSST!!
...WHAT?
HE SAID WE COULD KILL YOU IF YOU ACTED LIKE AN IDIOT.
Oh.

LUCKY FOR YOU, I'M A MAN WHO BELIEVES IN SECOND CHANCES.
BUT I'LL ONLY EXPLAIN THIS ONE TIME.
IN TERMS I'M SURE EVEN YOU CAN UNDERSTAND.
BUY ANOTHER COFFEE.
UH...OKAY?
IS THIS ONE FOR YOU?
KL-
NO.
KLANK!
THEY'RE ALL YOURS.
THINK OF THEM LIKE...
CHANCES TO MAKE GOOD ON NISHIMURA'S DEAL.
YOU SCREWED UP THE FIRST ONE WITH BILLY.
CURRENTLY, YOU'RE ENJOYING THE SECOND ONE AT MY OWN EXPENSE.
AND THE THIRD...
KRUNCH
DOESN'T EXIST.
KLAK
KLAK


NOW, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT TO DO, SAKANA...
...OR HOW TO GET YOURSELF OUT OF THIS MESS.
BUT IF THE SHIT HITS THE FAN—
—AND IN YOUR CASE, I FEEL LIKE IT WILL—
I'LL BE THE ONE WHO HAS TO CLEAN IT ALL UP.
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
CUH--
CU-CRYSTAL...
GOOD.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A DATE TO GET TO.
I SUGGEST YOU GET OUT OF THE RAIN, BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD.
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOON.
GOODNESS!
KRK
WHAT A BLEEDING HEART, AM I RIGHT?

WERE--WERE YOU THERE THE WHOLE TIME?!
HOHO--GENJI! LET'S NOT SPOIL THE MYSTERY!
I'M JUST HERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON MY INTERESTS.
I MUST ADMIT, I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
PLEASANTLY SURPRISED, OF COURSE.
BUT NO WORRIES. I TRUST MY BOYS' JUDGEMENT.
ALTHOUGH I AM A BUSY MAN, WITH LITTLE TIME TO WASTE ON FOOLS WHO BITE OFF MORE THAN THEY CAN CHEW.
SO... I'LL GIVE YOU TOMORROW.
ONE MORE DAY.
HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
TWO DAYS...
...PLEASE.
ON WEDNESDAY, I'M HAVING DINNER WITH MY FAMILY.
I CAN...
I CAN BRING IT UP THEN...
...
WEDNESDAY IT IS.

3:09 TUESDAY
SO... THE THING IS... I-I'M REALLY EXCITED FOR MY SECOND DATE!
EVEN THOUGH I'M SURE TARO AND MORI WILL GET US KICKED OUT OF THIS PLACE TOO, BUT...
TH-THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE I'M HAVING RIGHT NOW.
I-IT'S JUST...
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THIS IS ALL SOME KIND OF... OF FLUKE...
SHE'S CHANGED A LOT, AND... SHE'S SO CONFIDENT AND PUT TOGETHER AND
M-MAYBE SHE JUST FEELS SORRY FOR ME...
BUT THAT'S UNFAIR TO HER. A SECOND DATE WAS HER DECISION, BUT I-I'M WORRIED SHE'S... MAKING A MISTAKE.
WASTING HER TIME.
IT ALL JUST SEEMS TOO EASY, RIGHT?
WHY PICK ME WHEN THERE'S SO MANY...
BETTER OPTIONS?
...
...
WHY DOES TARO ALWAYS SAY THIS WORKS...


OKAY... OKAY... WHAT'S SOME ADVICE ALIVE PEOPLE HAVE SUGGESTED?
TAP
I'D DOUBLE DOWN ON THAT "SCARED AND HELPLESS" ANGLE.
PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS.
BE SPONTANEOUS! PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED!
IF I'M GONE FOR MORE THAN TWO DAYS, CALL THIS NUMBER.
DON'T INVOLVE THE POLICE.
YOU COULD PAY FOR A LADY'S DINNER!
UNLESS SHE DOESN'T WANT THAT. YOU COULD SEPARATE THE BILL.
OR EVEN GO FIFTY-FIFTY!
OR SHE MIGHT EVEN OFFER TO PAY!
LITERALLY ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN!
HAW HAW!
IMPRESS THE LADIES WITH YOUR BIG OL' MUSCLES!
JUST LIKE YER UNCLE REN!
HAH AHAH HAH HAH AH AH HAA HAH

AGH!

OKAY!
IT'S GONNA BE OKAY! I STILL HAVE TIME!
I'LL JUST...
I-I CAN FIGURE THIS OUT ON MY OWN!!
ZZZZZZZZ

ZZZ
SCAMPER
ZZZZ

TAK
TAK
TAK

FLY GUY
COOL!
CUT UR NASTY HAIR!
BE REAL HOT!!!
5 TIPZ 2 STEP UP UR DATING GAME
GO FROM LOOZER 2 COOLZER!
CLICK

FIVE TIPS...
ONE HOUR BEFORE I HAVE TO GET READY FOR WORK...
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH...
SOMETHING.

1. NEW OUTLOOK!
•HAVING NEW EXPERIENCES MEANS YOU'RE RAD AS HELL, MY DUDE.
2. NEW MUSCLES!
!!!(?)
•BEING MASSIVELY RIPPED SOLVES EVERY PROBLEM.
3. NEW DIGS!
•PUT YOUR HUGE WADS OF CASH TO GOOD USE.
4. NEW HAIR!
•SPEAKS FOR ITSELF!
5. NEW YOU!!!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO CLIMB A MOUNTAIN...
CLICK
UNCLE BEN WAS RIGHT!
I ONLY MAKE MINIMUM WAGE!!
NEW HAIR
NEW
...
oh.

CLATTER
CLATTER
SIT
THAT I CAN DO.

BEEP
BEEP
BEE
BEEP
4:30
BEEP
BEEP
SLAM
MNNh.
MH.
SKRTCH
SKRTCH
JROOO.
TIME FOR WOOORK...
POF
...
JIRO?

JIRO?
...JIRO?
ARE YOU OUT HERE?
STEP
HOOM
SLAM!
...
JIRO?

LOOM
SCUFFL
BMP
BMP
HAH!
UH...
OH! JIRO!
YOU'RE...
ALREADY DRESSED?
G-GOOD MORNING!
I, UH...
I GOT UP EARLY...
WHY?
AND WHAT'S WITH THE--
READY FOR ANOTHER FUN DAY AT WORK?!

SO... AS YOUR OLDER BROTHER...
OF COURSE I RESPECT YOUR EXPERIMENTAL FASHION DECISIONS...
BUT I JUST GOTTA ASK... WHERE--
TAISEI!!
TAISEI GAVE ME THIS HAT FOR MY LAST DATE, BUT I DIDN'T WEAR IT!
S-SO I'M WEARING IT NOW FOR THE SECOND DATE!
THIS GUY
THE DATE ISN'T UNTIL TONIGHT...
I'M JUST--JUST GETTING USED TO IT!!
TRYING SOMETHING NEW!!
JIRO, WAIT! I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
WH-HUH?!
YOU GOT A FOREHEAD TATTOO, RIGHT? IT'S OKAY! I CONSIDERED GETTING ONE IN MY TEENAGE YEARS.
BUT HONESTLY, LADIES DON'T REALLY LIKE THEM.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY KEEP THE HAT ON FOR NOW.
YEAH, OKAY, LET'S GO WITH THAT.
DON'T WORRY! THERE ARE WAYS TO REMOVE IT!
WE CAN FIX THIS!

WILL YOU AT LEAST SHOW IT TO ME BEFORE IT'S REMOVED?
N-NO... I'D LIKE TO... KEEP THE MYSTERY ALIVE...
WHAAAT?! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LIVE MY TEEN DREAMS THROUGH YOU NOW?!
WHAT ABOUT A DESCRIPTION?
UH...
I WAS GONNA GET SOME KINDA CRAZY FIRE-BREATHING DEMON!
OR A KILLER SHARK!
SOMETHING LIKE THAT??
Y-YEAH...

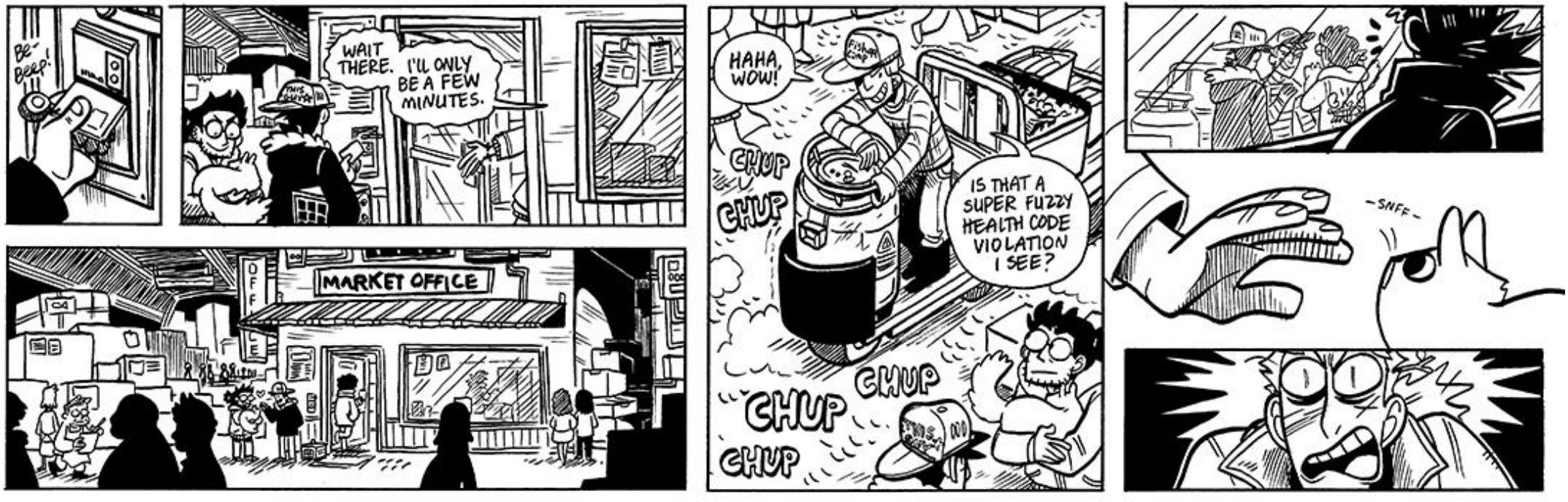
IT'S LIKE... CURSE WORDS?
OH... UH...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO...
HARDCORE.

YEAH... THAT'S ME, Y'KNOW...
HARDCORE JIR--
MOW.

SAKANAS.

Y-YUUDAI!!
G-GOOD MORNING!
WHERE, UH... WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
?
5 MINUTES AGO...
WE CAN FIX THIS!
SHA
AAAA
TH-THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
I...I DROPPED MY WORK ID ON THE TRAIN.
I NEED YOU TO GET ME INTO THE MARKET.
AND...
WHY ARE YOU WEARING A HAT?
IT'S THE ONLY HAT I OWN!! I SWEAR!!!
IS THIS A CAT.
WH--
TARO!
CAN I HOLD YOUR CAT.
MOW OW!
WOW!

WOW WOW MOW!
OW WOW!
OOOOH, THAT'S RIGHT! YOU WANNA COME HOME WITH ME AND BE MY CAT~!
TCH--DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF.
I'M ONLY LETTING YOU HOLD HER BECAUSE SHE'S BEEN COOPED UP ALL NIGHT.
AND MY ARMS ARE TIRED
AND I'M TIRED.
OW!
THIS GUY
YUUDAI...
...WERE YOU OUTSIDE ALL NIGHT?
I-IT'S JUST BECAUSE MY APARTMENT IS--
--IS BEING FUMIGATED!!
FLIP!
IT'S INFESTED!!
WITH VERMIN.
OH, SO... THAT'S CODE FOR--
NO CODE. JUST A MAN-SHAPED PILE OF ROACHES.

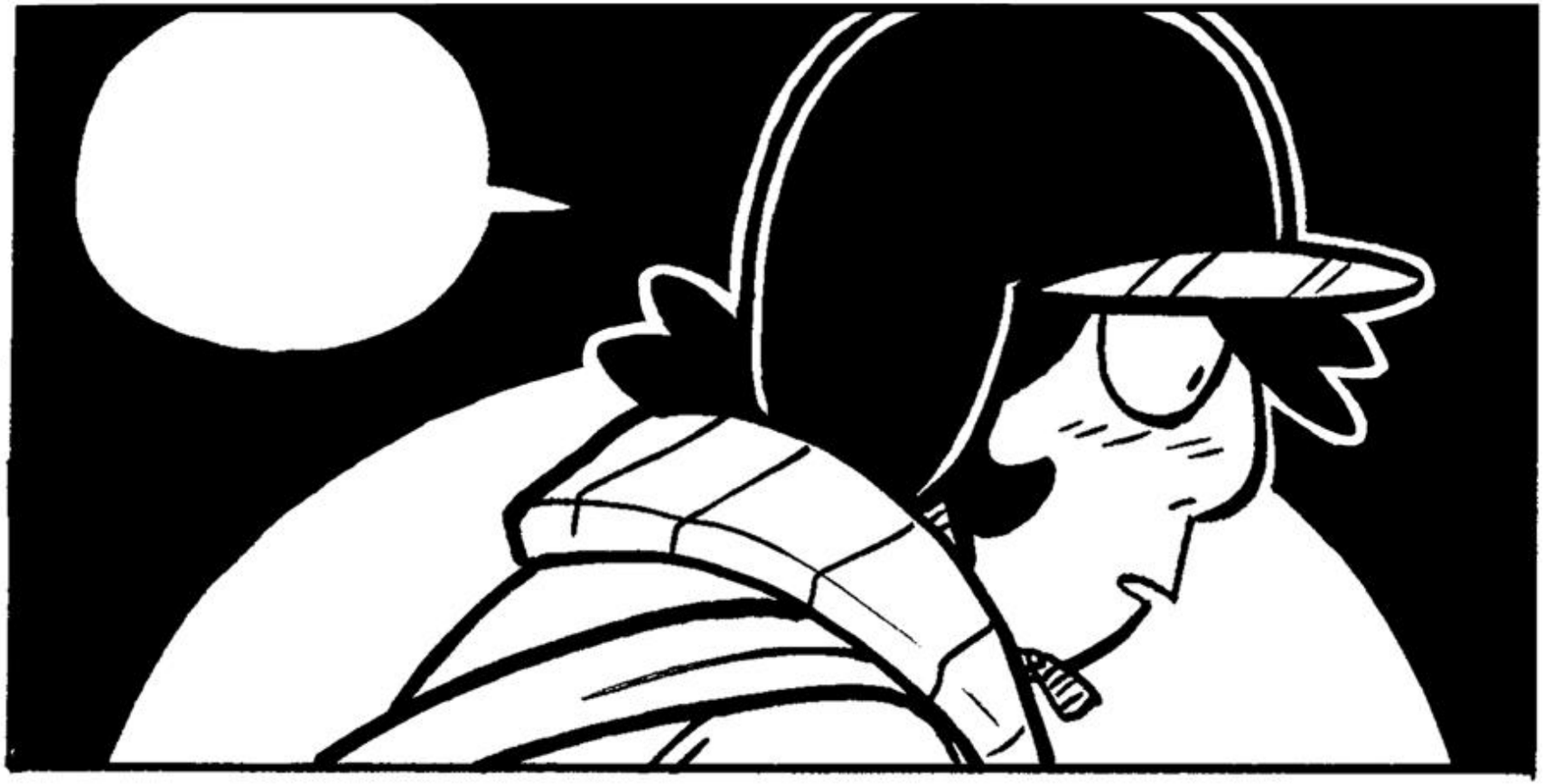

BE-BEEP!
WAIT THERE.
I'LL ONLY BE A FEW MINUTES.
MARKET OFFICE
HAHA, WOW!
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
IS THAT A SUPER FUZZY HEALTH CODE VIOLATION I SEE?
-SNFF-

WHAT'S UP WITH THIS BACKWARDS HAT BULLCRAP?
YOU GOIN' FOR SOME KWDA 'SHITTY TEEN' VIBE?
SKETCH SKETCH
YOU'VE GOT A HAT ON TOO.
YEAH, BUT MINE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SOMETHING MY 7 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER WOULD THINK IS COOL.
UHHH-- Y'KNOW...
JUST T-TRYING NEW STUFF!
HEY!!
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO TOUCH MY CAT?!
TANAKA? HAHA!!
I SHOULD'A KNOWN IT WAS YOURS!
TARO, YOU'VE LOST YOUR CAT PRIVILEGES.
NO!
OW!
NOW JIRO HAS TO--
-OWHATTHEFU
?!
UH.
oops.

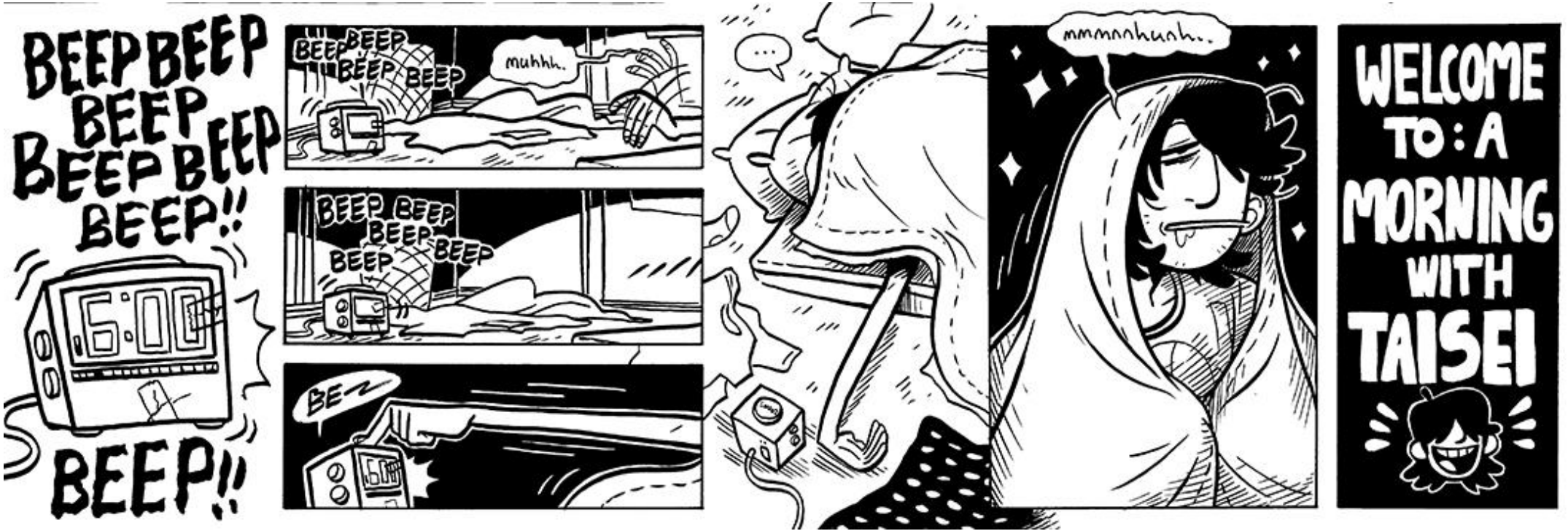
JIRO...
WOW
WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM?!
I'M SORRY!!
N-NO!! I DON'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU, I JUST--
THEN WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT HAT?!!
IT'S NOT THE EXACT SAME!!
M-MINE HAS STARS ON IT!!
JUST TAKE THE DAMN THING OF--
WAP!!
SORRY?! WHERE DO YOU GET OFF--
IT'S THE ONLY HAT I HAVE!!
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S THE LAST HAT ON EARTH!
IT- IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL! I'M SORRY, IT'S THE ONLY HAT I HAVE!
AFTER ALL THAT "KINDNESS AND UNDERSTANDING" BULLSHIT YOU PULLED YESTERDAY...
YOU--!
NO.

I TRIED SOMETHING NEW.
AND NOW I CAN NEVER TAKE THIS HAT OFF.

I'M SORRY.
I'LL PUT A PIECE OF TAPE ON IT, OR...
OR SOMETHING.
...
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ABOUT?
WHO SAID YOU COULD TOUCH MY CAT?!?
YOU HANDED IT TO ME!!



CHAPTER: XVIII

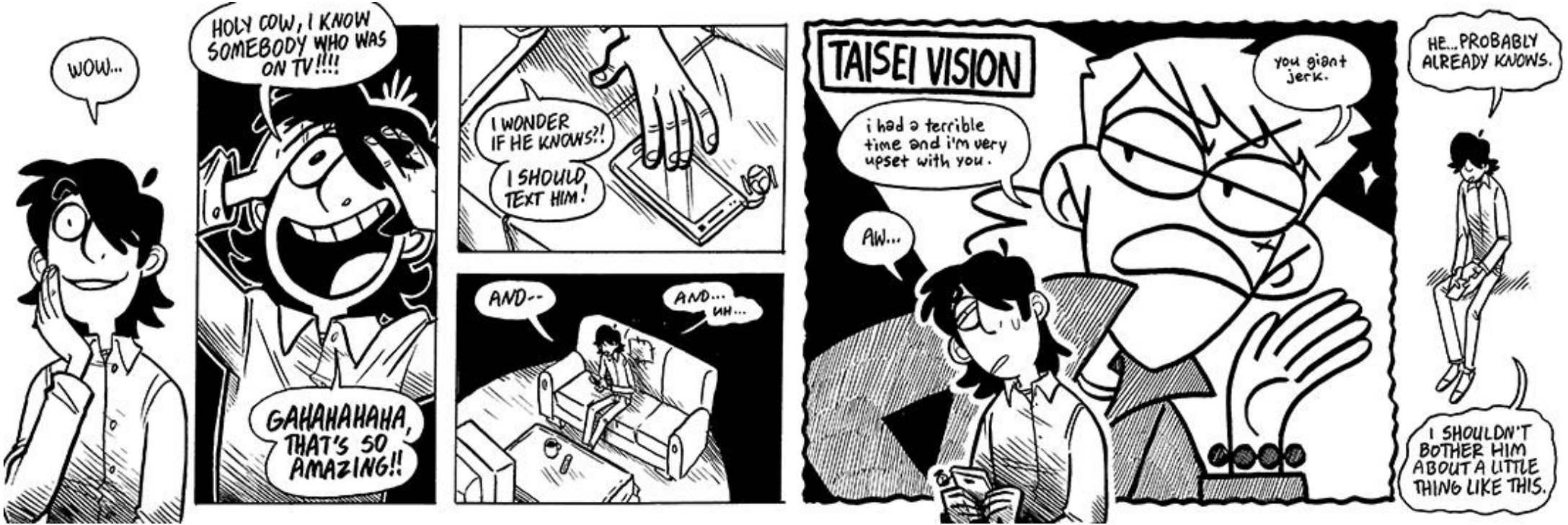

BEEP BEEP
BEEP
BEEP BEEP
BEEP!!
6:00
BEEP!!
BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP
muhhh.
BEEP BEEP
BEEP
BEEP BEEP
BEEP
BE~
...
mmnnnhunh..
WELCOME
TO: A
MORNING
WITH
TAISEI

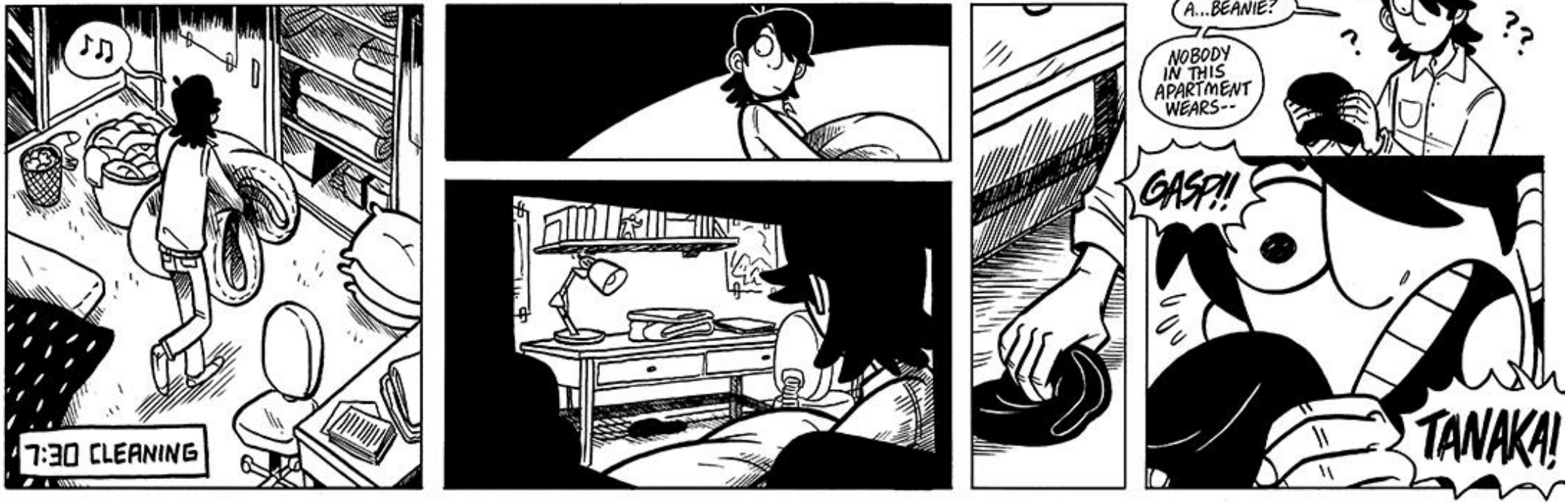
hmm
hmm
mmmhmm~♪
Glug.
GLUG
Glug.
CLOSE
RUN
~NNN
~NNNeee

READY FOR THE DAY!!

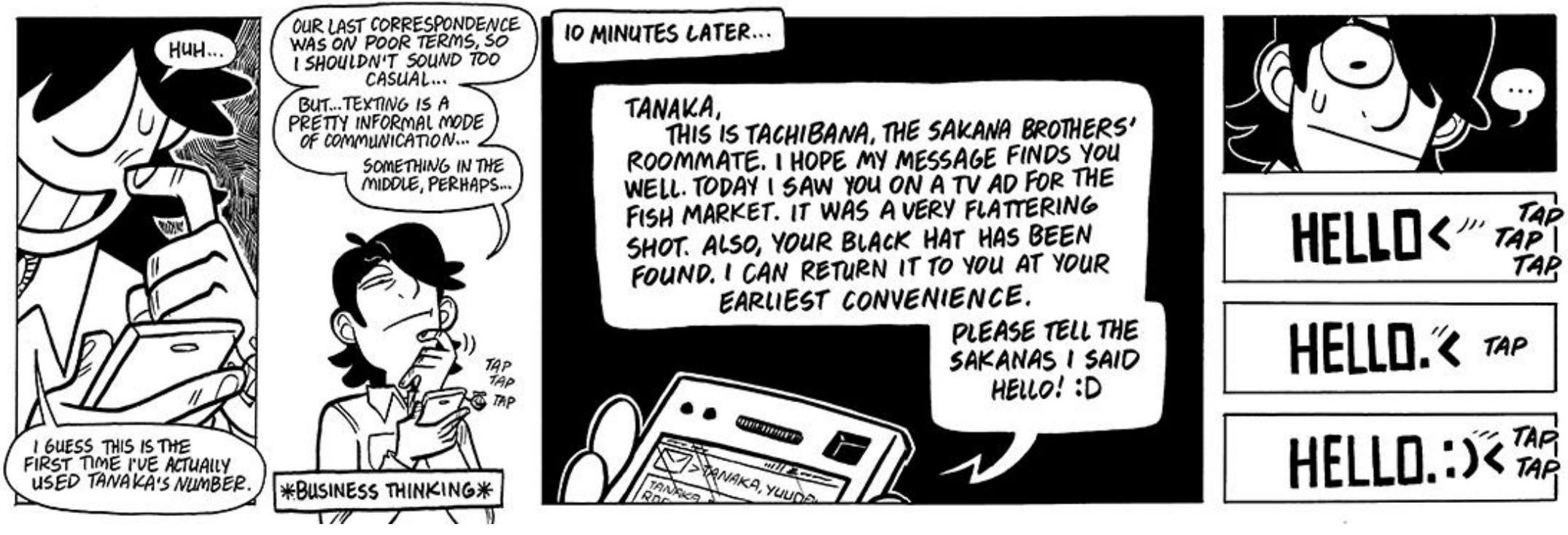
WHEN OUR LIVES ARE DISRUPTED AND OUR HAPPINESS IS AT STAKE--
EVEN ENEMIES CAN BECOME FRIENDS!!!
7:00 AM CARTOONS
BANG, CRASH!
YEAH!
YOU TELL 'EM, HYPRAMAN!
4TH CUP OF COFFEE
WE'LL BE BACK AFTER THESE MESSAGES--
EMAIL TIME!!
HMM!
YESTERDAY »
-SASAKI NATSUKO
MR. TACHIBANA,
I HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING OUR CONVERSATION YESTERDAY AND I FEEL I MAY HAVE EXCUSED MYSELF PREMATURELY. PERHAPS WE COULD MEET AGAIN ON THURSDAY WHEN I AM BACK FROM MY TRIP ON BUSINES
SASAKI
AWESOME!
QUARTERLY SALES
-NO.PEQ SALES TEAM
EVERYONE,
CONGRATULATIONS!!
SALES ARE UP ACROSS THE BOARD. PLEASE CONTINUE TO WORK HARD. :)
GOOD JOB.
HELL YEAH!!
HYPRAMAN RENEWED FOR SEASON 10
-HYPRAMAN NEWS
10 SEASONS

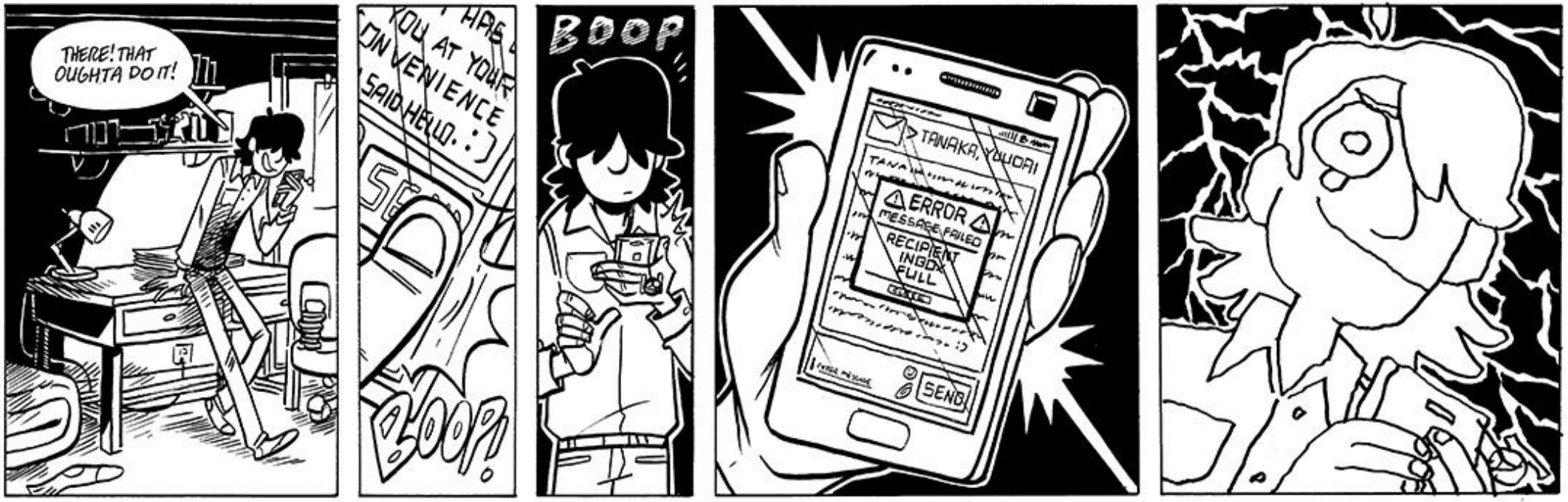
gehehe, happy birthday to taise:~
COME ON DOWN TO THE TSUKIJI MARKET!!
WHOLESALE SEAFOOD!! SIX DAYS A WEEK!
ALMOST 900 LICENSED WHOLESALE DEALERS!!
PRODUCE AND FLOWER MARKETS!
YOU CAN'T BEAT THESE DEALS!!!
TSUKIJI!
wholesale market
SEE THE TUNA AUCTION!
HAVE LUNCH!
OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK EXCLUDING NATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND OTHER
OOHHHH!!
I WONDER IF THE GUYS ARE IN THIS?
LOCATED BETWEEN THE GINZA SHOPPING DISTRICT AND THE SUMIDA RIVER!
COME SEE ALL THE FRIENDLY FACES AT THE MARKET!!
EASE DO NOT BRING STROLLERS----LARGE GROUPS PLEASE SPLIT UP TO
GASP!!
TANAKA!!!

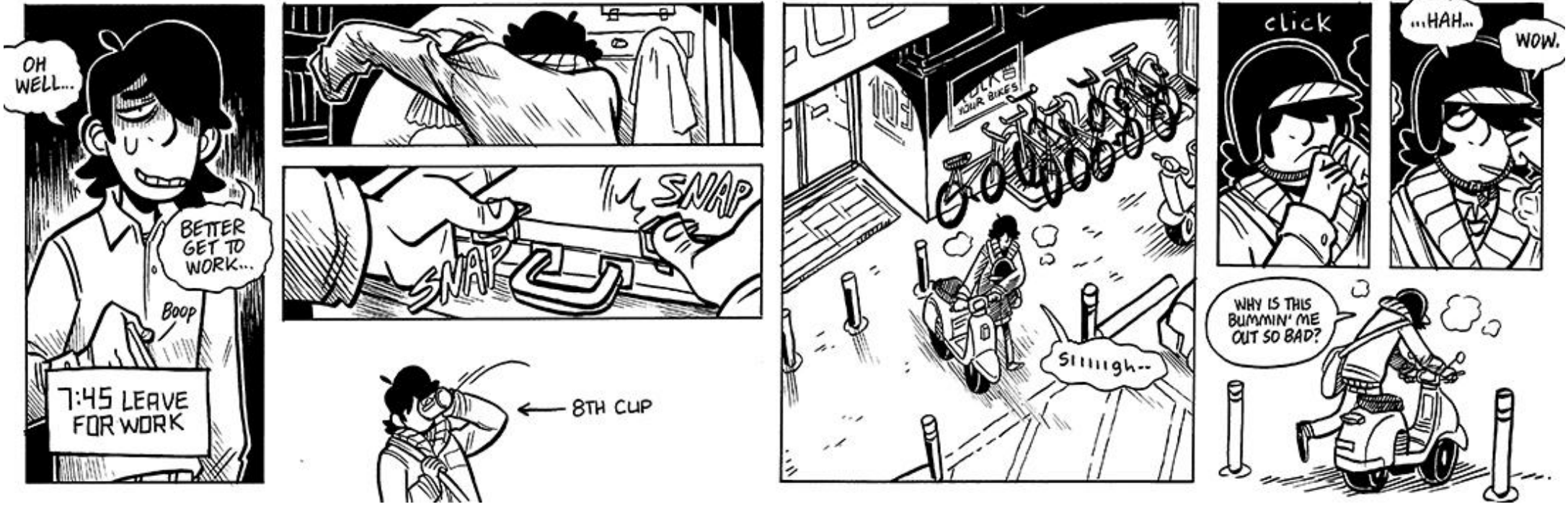

WOW...
HOLY COW, I KNOW SOMEBODY WHO WAS ON TV!!!!
GAHAHAHAHA, THAT'S SO AMAZING!!
I WONDER IF HE KNOWS?!
I SHOULD TEXT HIM!
AND--
AND... UH...
TAISEI VISION
i had a terrible time and i'm very upset with you.
you giant jerk.
AW...
HE... PROBABLY ALREADY KNOWS.
I SHOULDN'T BOTHER HIM ABOUT A LITTLE THING LIKE THIS.

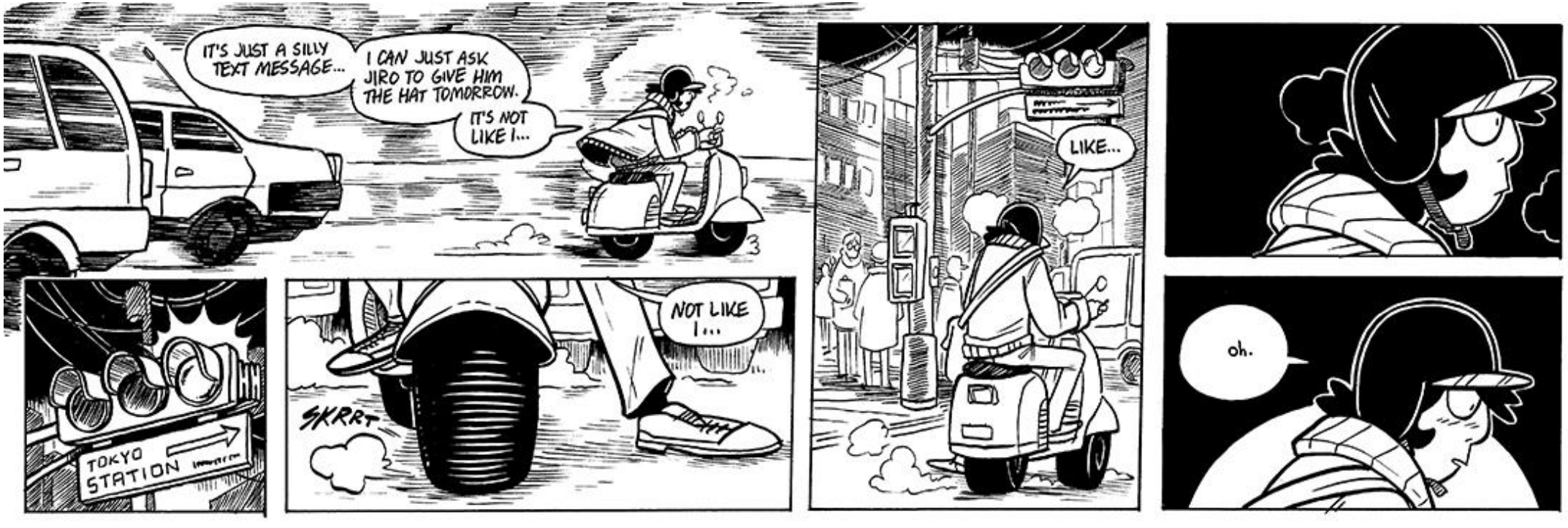

♪♫
7:30 CLEANING
A...BEANIE?
NOBODY IN THIS APARTMENT WEARS--
?
??
GASP!!
TANAKA!

I GUESS HE LEFT IT HERE ON SATURDAY NIGHT!
GEHEHEHE! I THOUGHT HE LOST IT WHEN WE GOT KICKED OUT OF THAT 3rd BAR!
HAH... SATURDAY NIGHT...
AH... BUT... HE PROBABLY HAS OTHERS...
I SHOULDN'T BOTHER HIM ABOUT ONE LITTLE THING...
...
BUT TWO LITTLE THINGS--


HUH...
I GUESS THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE ACTUALLY USED TANAKA'S NUMBER.
OUR LAST CORRESPONDENCE WAS ON POOR TERMS, SO I SHOULDN'T SOUND TOO CASUAL...
BUT...TEXTING IS A PRETTY INFORMAL MODE OF COMMUNICATION...
SOMETHING IN THE MIDDLE, PERHAPS...
TAP TAP TAP
BUSINESS THINKING
10 MINUTES LATER...
TANAKA,
THIS IS TACHIBANA, THE SAKANA BROTHERS' ROOMMATE. I HOPE MY MESSAGE FINDS YOU WELL. TODAY I SAW YOU ON A TV AD FOR THE FISH MARKET. IT WAS A VERY FLATTERING SHOT. ALSO, YOUR BLACK HAT HAS BEEN FOUND. I CAN RETURN IT TO YOU AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.
PLEASE TELL THE SAKANAS I SAID HELLO! :D
TANAKA, YUUDA
...
HELLO TAP TAP TAP
HELLO. TAP
HELLO.:) TAP TAP


THERE! THAT OUGHTA DO IT!
YOU AT YOUR CONVENIENCE
SAID HELLO. :)
BOOP!
BOOP
TANAKA, YUUDAI
ERROR
MESSAGE FAILED
RECIPIENT INBOX FULL
SEND


OH WELL...
BETTER GET TO WORK...
Boop
7:45 LEAVE FOR WORK
SNAP
SNAP
8TH CUP
Sllllligh--
click
...HAH...
WOW.
WHY IS THIS BUMMIN' ME OUT SO BAD?


IT'S JUST A SILLY TEXT MESSAGE...
I CAN JUST ASK JIRO TO GIVE HIM THE HAT TOMORROW.
IT'S NOT LIKE I...
TOKYO STATION
SKRRT
NOT LIKE I...
LIKE...
oh.

OH!! LOOK, RYU!
IT'S A NEW FLOWER SHOP!
OH! I WANT TO BUY FRESH FLOWERS FOR OUR NEW APARTMENT!
All my Buds flower shop
SURE, BUT... LOOKS LIKE THE STORE'S CLOSED, BABE.
YOU KIDS LIKE FLOWERS?
IT HASN'T OPENED YET!
All my Buds GRAND OPENING WEDNESDAY 8 AM
SEE? THERE'S A PARTY TOMORROW!
WE NEED TO GO!!
BUT THE GAME'S ON TOMORROW NIGHT...
HEY.

uh—
YES!! ARE YOU COMING TO THE GRAND OPENING AS WELL?
OF COURSE.
IT IS MY STORE.
WOOOOSH
HOLY CRAP, THIS IS YOUR STORE?!
YOU'RE A FLORIST?!
THAT'S SO ROMANTIC!
UGH, YEAH, OKAY.
MARI...
WE'LL DEFINITELY COME TO YOUR OPENING!!
WE'LL SUPPORT YOU!!
GREAT.
CH-CHK
PASS OUT SOME OF THESE FLYERS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
all my GRAND OPENING

YES!! YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!
WAIT, WE'RE NOT SPENDING THE DAY ADVERTISING FOR YOU!
THAT'S YOUR JOB!

I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN MILL AROUND ON SOME CUTESY DATE.
WE'RE ON WINTER BREAK!

WELL, SHE SEEMS INTO IT.
MARIKO GETS EXCITED ABOUT ALL KINDS OF STUFF!

RIGHT. SO GET OFF YOUR ASS AND SHOW HER YOU'RE NOT SOME WEAK, SNIVELING LITTLE PARTY-POOPER.

WHAT THE HELL?!

PLUS, YOU'RE SUPPORTING LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
HEY!!

HM
HM
HM

NOW THAT THE MARKETING'S TAKEN CARE OF..

IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK.

GET BACK TO WORK, JIRO!!
I AM WORKING. I'M ORGANIZING THE EMPTY BOXES, LIKE YOU TOLD ME TO!
YEAH, WELL, YOU'RE TAKING TOO LONG.
GO GET ON THE REGISTER.
AND DON'T YOU DARE WALK OFF WITH YOUR LITTLE GIRLFRIEND. I'M NOT GONNA TOLERATE THAT CRAP TODAY.
OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP TELLING ME.
OH.
ARE YOU SURE?
'CUZ IT SEEMS LIKE YOU JUST IGNORE EVERYTHING I TELL YOU.
I PUT TAPE OVER IT!!!
...PUT TAPE OVER YOUR DUMB MOUTH...
NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING PETTY!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE.
PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES ABOUT SAKANA'S.
THANK YOU!
TAK TAK TAK TAK
. . .
10 ¥10
MATSUMOTO's
'SCUSE ME, SIR...
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS NEW HEADGEAR?
IF I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER...
I'D SAY YOU'RE TRYING OUT A NEW LOOK FOR OUR DATE TONIGHT~
HE'S PROBABLY GOING FOR THAT TRENDY 'DISTRESSED' LOOK!
¥1000+

I THINK IT REALLY SUITS YOU!
REALLY? AH... SO, IT'S OKAY TO WEAR TONIGHT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK MY PERMISSION TO WEAR A HAT ON OUR SECOND DATE, JIRO!
YOU LOOK FINE NO MATTER WHAT!
O-OH, TH-THANK YOU, B-BUT... I'M WEARING IT... B-BE--
WAIT, WAIT, I CHANGED MY MIND!
YOU'RE TESTING OUT THAT CASUAL BADBOY LOOK!
IT'S GOT ALL THE GIRLS GOING WILD!
TRYING HARD NOT TO BARF
uh.
HEY!!! HEY!!! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!?!
WHOOPS, THAT'S OUR CUE TO LEAVE!

WHAT DID I SAY ABOUT COMING INTO MY STALL?!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET ANYTHING DONE WITH YOU ASSHOLES HANGING ARDUND?!
UH-OH, THE "MEAN MAN" LOOK WAS SO LAST YEAR!!
NEXT TIME YOU EVEN LOOK THIS WAY, I'M CALLING SECURITY, AND YOUR BOSS, AND THE MARKET BOSS!!!
SO STAY ON YOUR SIDE OF THE GODDAMN AISLE!!!
AAA, DON'T CALL MY BOSS!! I'M SORRY!!!
BYE, JIRD!
AND YOU!!!
I LITERALLY JUST TOLD YOU THAT--
THAT YOU--
...YOU...
JIRO!!
H-WHAH?!
WAP
W-HAT-- WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE'S--
OH SHIT.

CHAPTER:XIX

...
LICK
DID THIS FISH HAVE TWO HEADS...?
OW!
TARO!! GET OUT FRONT.
SWAP
YOUR BROTHER AND I NEED TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT BACK HERE.
YOU'RE ON CUSTOMER SERVICE UNTIL WE'RE FINISHED.
TRY NOT TO SCARE ANYBODY AWAY.
CHAT?
ABOUT WHAT?
IT'S FINE, TARO. IT WAS MY FAULT.
HMMM.
I BETTER NOT HEAR ANY YELLING BACK HERE.

YUUDAI, I'M REALLY SORRY.
I KNOW YOU'RE HAVING A BAD TIME-- AND...I-I'M MAKING IT WORSE.
I-I JUST--
NO, NO, NO. JUST STOP.
hhh...
...
THIS IS MY FAULT.
WHAT.
THIS IS ALL NORMAL! YOU BEING BAD AT YOUR JOB AND ANNOYING THE CRAP OUT OF ME-- THAT'S PAR FOR THE COURSE!
BUT ME--I'M THE ONE ACTING WEIRD!
SEE, I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN TWO DAYS, SO MY JUDGEMENT'S IMPAIRED!
I'M TAKING THINGS PERSONALLY, BUT...
IT'S MY FAULT FOR GETTING TOO FRIENDLY TOO QUICKLY!

...FRIENDLY?
YEAH. ARATA THREW ME OFF MY GAME FOR A MINUTE THERE.
SKRCH SKRCH
I LET MY GUARD DOWN.
YOU--
BUT I'M...HANDLING THE ARATA THING!
THERE'S NO NEED TO GET UPSET ABOUT THIS.
LET'S JUST GET BACK TO NORMAL. BEFORE SATURDAY NIGHT AND ALL THAT.
BUT--BUT I WANT TO HELP! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS ALONE!
UGHHHHH- YOU KNOW HOW YOU CAN HELP?
STOP PRETENDING TO GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ME.
IT'S STARTING TO GET REALLY ANNOYING.
YUUDAI!! I-I DO GIVE A SHIT!!
PLEASE, JUST... TRUST ME ON THIS!
SORRY, I'VE LEARNED TO NEVER TRUST A GUY WEARING A DUMB HA--
I [redacted] UP MY HAIR!!!

WHAT.
I-I WAS SO NERVOUS ABOUT MY DATE TONIGHT THAT I--I TRIED TO CUT MY OWN HAIR!!
A-AND IT LOOKS HORRIBLE.
A-AND I'M REALLY EMBARASSED, SO... THAT'S WHY...
YOU'RE WEARING THAT DOUCHE'S HAT...
BECAUSE YOU'RE HAVING A BAD HAIR DAY...?
IT'S NOT THE SAME HAT!! IT'S THE ONLY THING I HAD TO COVER UP THIS MESS!
I'M OUTTA HERE.
YUUDAI, LISTEN--I...
I-IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, I-I...
I-I'LL SHOW YOU.

...
AAAA-I D-DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME... I-I JUST GOT SO NERVOUS...
A-AND I JUST STARTED CUTTING IT, BUT IT KEPT GETTING WORSE AND WORSE!!
A-AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO S-SO I GOT THE HAT... AND I...
SNRK

AHAHAHAH
HAHAHAH
AHAHA
HAHAHAHAH
HOH MY GOD!!
HAHA - HOLY SHIT!
AAAAAAA
HAHAHA AHAH!
WHAT DID YOU DO
TO YOUR HAI--
KRA
AH--?!

AH--
AH--
OH...
OH NO... JI--
LEAVE ME ALONE!!!
B-
DMP
I...
THIS GUY
PEEEEEY
I'M...
HAHAHA WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOUR HAIR?!?
I'M THAT GUY...
AAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAA

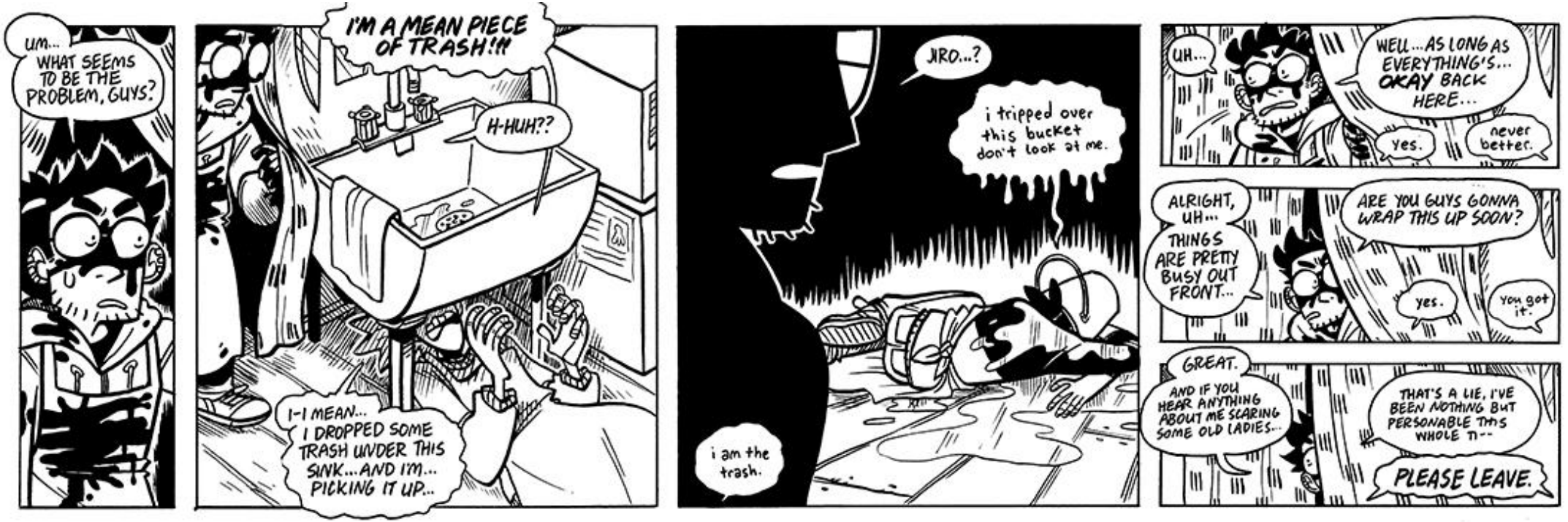
AAAAAAAAAA

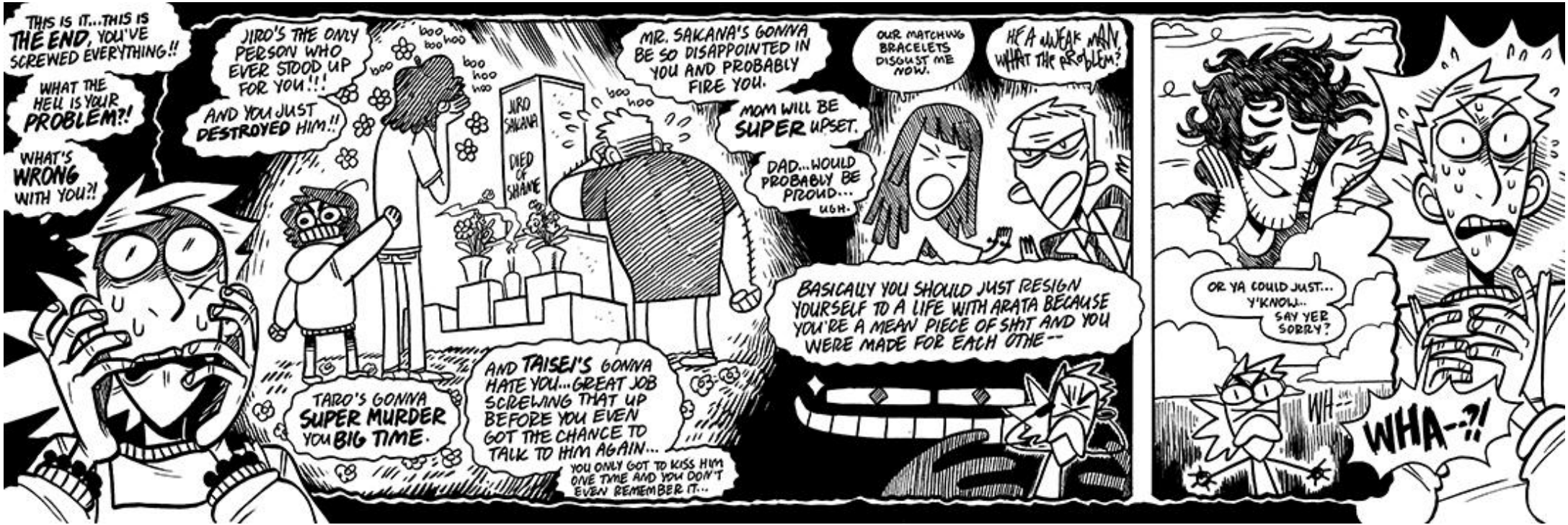
AAAAAAAA

AAAAAAAA
SPLOOSH

HEY!!! WHAT DID I SAY ABOUT YELL--

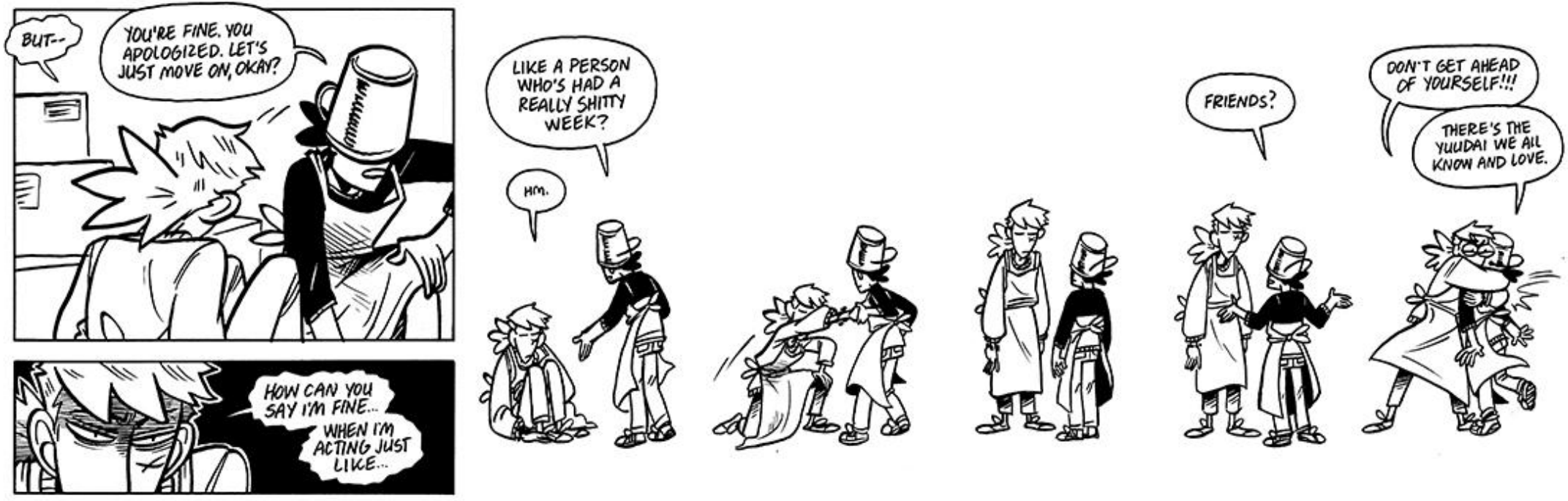
OH MY GOODNESS.
AAAAAAAA
NO
MOOOOWWWW!!!
AAAAAAAAAAAA

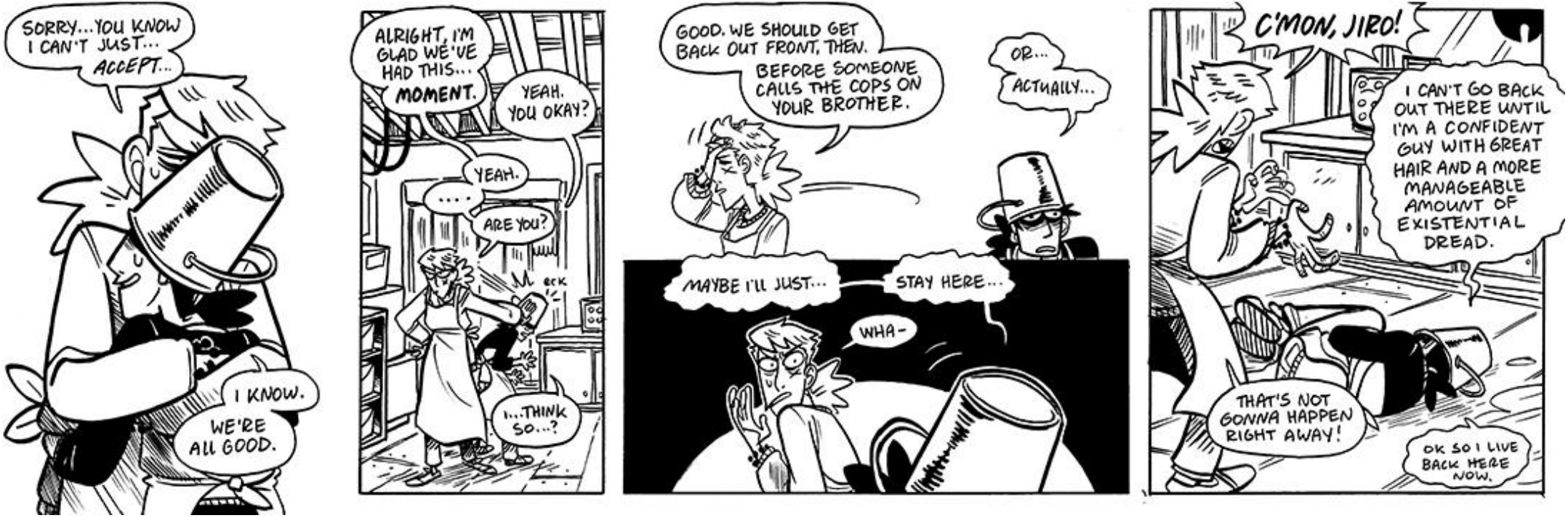

UM... WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM, GUYS?
I'M A MEAN PIECE OF TRASH!!!
H-HUH??
I-I MEAN... I DROPPED SOME TRASH UNDER THIS SINK... AND I'M... PICKING IT UP...
JRO...?
i tripped over this bucket don't look at me.
i am the trash.
UH...
WELL... AS LONG AS EVERYTHING'S... OKAY BACK HERE...
yes.
never better.
ALRIGHT, UH... THINGS ARE PRETTY BUSY OUT FRONT...
ARE YOU GUYS GONNA WRAP THIS UP SOON?
yes.
you got it.
GREAT.
AND IF YOU HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT ME SCARING SOME OLD LADIES...
THAT'S A LIE, I'VE BEEN NOTHING BUT PERSONABLE THIS WHOLE TI--
PLEASE LEAVE.

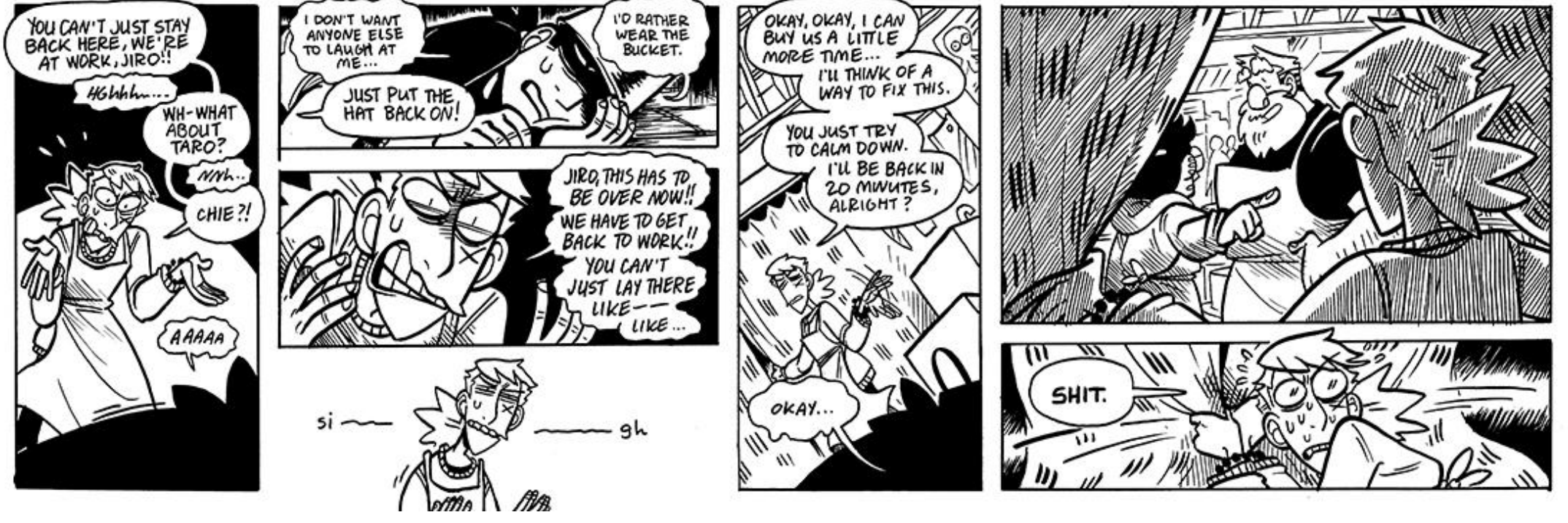

THIS IS IT...THIS IS THE END, YOU'VE SCREWED EVERYTHING!!
WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
JIRO'S THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER STOOD UP FOR YOU!!!
AND YOU JUST DESTROYED HIM!!
boo boo hoo
JIRO SAKANA
DIED OF SHAME
TARO'S GONNA SUPER MURDER YOU BIG TIME.
AND TAISEI'S GONNA HATE YOU...GREAT JOB SCREWING THAT UP BEFORE YOU EVEN GOT THE CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM AGAIN...
YOU ONLY GOT TO KISS HIM ONE TIME AND YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER IT...
MR. SAKANA'S GONNA BE SO DISAPPOINTED IN YOU AND PROBABLY FIRE YOU.
MOM WILL BE SUPER UPSET.
DAD...WOULD PROBABLY BE PROUD... UGH.
OUR MATCHING BRACELETS DISGUST ME NOW.
HE'A WEAK MAN. WHAT THE PROBLEM?
BASICALLY YOU SHOULD JUST RESIGN YOURSELF TO A LIFE WITH ARATA BECAUSE YOU'RE A MEAN PIECE OF SHIT AND YOU WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHE--
OR YA COULD JUST... Y'KNOW... SAY YER SORRY?
WH--
WHA--?!

OK.
YOU CAN DO THIS...
YOU WERE AN ASSHOLE, JUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
JIRO DESERVES AN APOLOGY. NO TRYING TO GET OUT OF IT.
SO...
...DO I JUST... GO FOR IT...??
LEAD INTO IT?
TRY TO EXPLAIN MYSEL--
NO.
NO EXCUSES.
JUST...
...
I'M SORRY?
apology accepted.
WAIT...THAT DIDN'T SOUND VERY SINCERE...
NEITHER DID YOUR APOLOGY.

LOOK, I'M...
I'VE BEEN... BAD...
I'VE BEEN MEAN TO YOU, AND YOU DIDN'T DESERVE TO GET LAUGHED AT.
ESPECIALLY AFTER YOU WERE SO...
NICE.
TO ME.
A-AND I KNOW YOU GET REAL STRESSED, AND MY, UH...
RESPONSE TO THAT HASN'T EXACTLY BEEN... SYMPATHETIC.
BUT I'M--
I'M SORRY...
F-FOR...
F-FOR HOW I AM
AND HOW I MAKE YOU FEEL
AND HOW SHITTY I CAN BE
AND IF YOU NEVER WANT ME NEAR TACHIBANA AGAIN I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND
AND--
YUUDAI.
guh.
PAT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.


BUT--
YOU'RE FINE. YOU APOLOGIZED. LET'S JUST MOVE ON, OKAY?
HOW CAN YOU SAY I'M FINE... WHEN I'M ACTING JUST LIKE...
LIKE A PERSON WHO'S HAD A REALLY SHITTY WEEK?
HM.
FRIENDS?
DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF!!!
THERE'S THE YUUDAI WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE.


SORRY... YOU KNOW I CAN'T JUST... ACCEPT...
I KNOW. WE'RE ALL GOOD.
ALRIGHT, I'M GLAD WE'VE HAD THIS... MOMENT.
YEAH. YOU OKAY?
YEAH.
....
ARE YOU?
eck
...THINK SO...?
GOOD. WE SHOULD GET BACK OUT FRONT, THEN.
BEFORE SOMEONE CALLS THE COPS ON YOUR BROTHER.
OR... ACTUALLY...
MAYBE I'LL JUST...
STAY HERE...
WHA-
C'MON, JIRO!
I CAN'T GO BACK OUT THERE UNTIL I'M A CONFIDENT GUY WITH GREAT HAIR AND A MORE MANAGEABLE AMOUNT OF EXISTENTIAL DREAD.
THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN RIGHT AWAY!
OK SO I LIVE BACK HERE NOW.


YOU CAN'T JUST STAY BACK HERE, WE'RE AT WORK, JIRO!!
HGhhh....
WH-WHAT ABOUT TARO?
Nnh..
CHIE?!
AAAAA
I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO LAUGH AT ME...
I'D RATHER WEAR THE BUCKET.
JUST PUT THE HAT BACK ON!
JIRO, THIS HAS TO BE OVER NOW!!
WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK!!
YOU CAN'T JUST LAY THERE LIKE——
LIKE...
si——
——gh
OKAY, OKAY, I CAN BUY US A LITTLE MORE TIME...
I'LL THINK OF A WAY TO FIX THIS.
YOU JUST TRY TO CALM DOWN.
I'LL BE BACK IN 20 MINUTES, ALRIGHT?
OKAY...
SHIT.

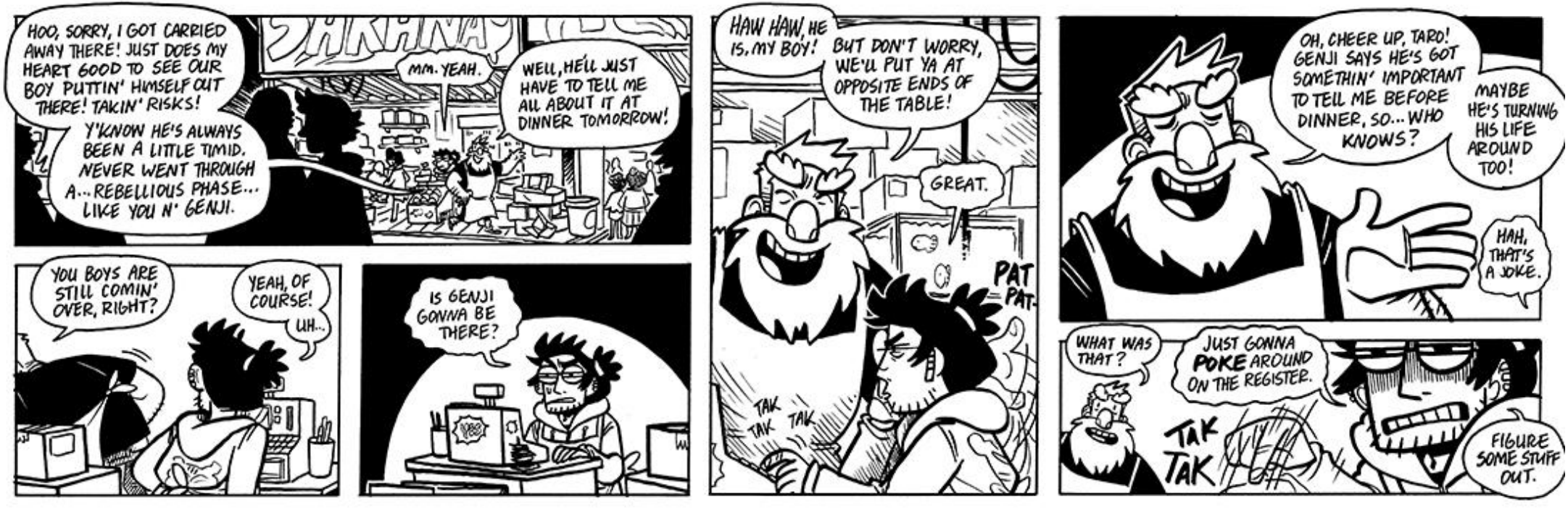
IT'S YOUR UNCLE!!
OH GOD--
I-I DON'T WANT HIM TO SEE ME LIKE THIS!
W-WELL... CAN'T YOU JUST EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED?
HE'S A REASONABLE MAN!
UNCLE REN ALREADY WORRIES ABOUT US SO MUCH... I-I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THESE THINGS MYSELF.
BUT INSTEAD I'M SITTING BACK HERE WITH A BUCKET ON MY HEAD...
PLUS...
?
I DON'T EVEN HAVE GREAT BIG MUSCLES LIKE HIM...
HE'LL WANT TO KNOW WHY I LEFT TARO OUT FRONT UNSUPERVISED FOR SO LONG...
WHAT AM I GONNA DO...
DON'T FREAK OUT...
I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA...
BUT YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE IT.
LIVE BELS

GOODNESS, THIS ISN'T LIKE YUUDAI TO LEAVE THE FRONT FOR SO LONG··· I HOPE EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT...
LAST I SAW, YUUDAI WAS UNDER THE SINK AND JIRO HAD A BUCKET ON HIS HEAD AND THEY BOTH TOLD ME TO LEAVE...
OH, THAT CAN'T BE GOOD...
WAIT!!!
DON'T GO BACK THERE!!
FW
APP
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, M'BOY?
N-NOTHING, MR. SAKANA.
TARO SAYS YOU'VE BOTH BEEN YELLING BACK THERE FOR A HALF-HOUR!
A-AH, IT WASN'T YELLING--
IT WAS--AH-- ENCOURAGEMENT!
Y'SEE ...
JIRO WANTED TO KEEP THIS A SECRET BECAUSE HE WASN'T SURE HOW YOU'D TAKE IT... BUT... RIGHT NOW, HE'S...
HE'S BACK THERE PRACTICING... HIS BUTCHERY SKILLS.
BUT HE'S VERY SELF-CONSCIOUS, SO WE SHOULD GIVE HIM SOME PRIVACY.
BUTCHERY?
BUT HE GETS REALLY SQUEAMI--
REALLY?!

WHETHER JIRO WANTED TO OR NOT, Y'CAN'T JUST SWITCH THE BOYS AROUND WILLY-NILLY!
YOU KNOW, THAT, SON!
TH-THERE'S A PERFECT EXPLANATION FOR THIS...
IS THERE?
JUST LIKE HIS OLDER BROTHER!
UH... WELL...
AH!
YOU SEE, MR. SAKANA...
I FIGURED, IF JIRO WAS UP FOR LEARNING A NEW SKILL... WHY NOT TARO AS WELL?
EXPAND BOTH OF THEIR HORIZONS?
...
I FEEL IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND ALL ASPECTS OF FISHMONGERING!
CUSTOMER SERVICE, REGISTER SALES, BUTCHERY, HIGH-STAKES TUNA PRICE NEGOTIATION...
THEY'LL NEED TO LEARN ALL THESE THINGS IF THEY'RE TO INHERIT THIS BUSINESS SOME DAY... OR EVEN START THEIR OWN!
AND THAT'S WHERE I COME IN! BECAUSE...
MAKING SURE YOUR NEPHEWS HAVE A WELL-ROUNDED FISH MARKET EXPERIENCE...
IS MY MOST IMPORTANT JOB~
peek
I NEVER AGREED TO THIS.
...
...
YUUDAI, MY BOY...
O GOD

WHUDD
FANTASTIC!!
THAT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF FORWARD THWKING OF OUR SUPER-SUPERVISOR!
HAW-HAW HAW
HAW HAW HAW
HAW HAW
YER ONE STEP AHEAD'A ME, BOY!!
WAP-WAP WAP WAP
GAHH
TH-THANK YOU, MR. SAKANA.
I HAVE TO, UH, RUN TO THE BATHROOM FOR A MINUTE...
OF COURSE! I'LL STICK AROUND AND SHOW TARO A THING OR TWO ON THE REGISTER!
SWIPE
ZOOP
HOLD IT, HOLD IT! I NEVER SAID I WANTED TO LEARN THE REGISTER!
AHAH--AH-- CAN THIS BE YOUR FAVOR??
WHAT! NO!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU AND JIRO··· BUT HE BETTER BE OKAY AND YOU BETTER WRAP THIS UP QUICK!
I GET IT.
THANK YOU FOR PLAYING ALONG.
DID HE JUST SAY THANK YOU?

SO, YOU ADD UP THE TOTAL AND PRESS THIS KEY HERE TO TALLY THE SALE!
AND HERE, THIS ONE'S FER THE HATCH WHEN YA RUN OUTTA REGISTER TAPE!
SALE
NOW YOU TRY!
PERFECT!!!
SPROING!
TAK!!!
YER A NATURAL!
IT'S A SHAME I CAN'T CHECK UP ON YER BROTHER!
SHUT
YES!
I WANTED TO ASK HOW HIS DATE WENT THE OTHER DAY!
OH, HE THINKS IT WENT GREAT. THEY'RE GOING OUT AGAIN TONIGHT, BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE THERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
ICY
WHAT!!
A SECOND DATE ALREADY AND YOU DIDN'T TELL YOUR POOR UNCLE REN?!
YOU BOYS NEED TO KEEP ME N' YER AUNT IN THE LOOP!
OH, THIS IS TOO MUCH SHOCK AND PRIDE FOR MY OLD HEART TO TAKE!
SOON HE'LL BE OUT ON HIS OWN...
STARTING A FAMILY...
GRAND NIECES AND NEPHEWS...
UNCLE TARO...
WHOA, WHOA, WAIT, SLOW DOWN!
I'M NOT READY TO BE AN UNCLE!!
SALE


HOO, SORRY, I GOT CARRIED AWAY THERE! JUST DOES MY HEART GOOD TO SEE OUR BOY PUTTIN' HIMSELF OUT THERE! TAKIN' RISKS!
Y'KNOW HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE TIMID. NEVER WENT THROUGH A... REBELLIOUS PHASE... LIKE YOU N' GENJI.
MM. YEAH.
WELL, HE'LL JUST HAVE TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT AT DINNER TOMORROW!
YOU BOYS ARE STILL COMIN' OVER, RIGHT?
YEAH, OF COURSE!
UH...
IS GENJI GONNA BE THERE?
HAW HAW, HE IS, MY BOY!
BUT DON'T WORRY, WE'LL PUT YA AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE TABLE!
GREAT.
PAT PAT
TAK TAK TAK
OH, CHEER UP, TARO! GENJI SAYS HE'S GOT SOMETHIN' IMPORTANT TO TELL ME BEFORE DINNER, SO... WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE HE'S TURNING HIS LIFE AROUND TOO!
HAH, THAT'S A JOKE.
WHAT WAS THAT?
JUST GONNA POKE AROUND ON THE REGISTER.
TAK TAK
FIGURE SOME STUFF OUT.

SHOWIN' INITIATIVE!! I LIKE THAT, BOY!
YOU KNOW THE REGISTER BASICS NOW, AND THE CROWD'S DIED DOWN. I SHOULD BE GETTIN' BACK TO THE SUSHI STALL.
STICK TO SMALL SALES 'TIL YUUDAI GETS BACK.
WE'LL WORK ON... CUSTOMER SERVICE LATER...
YOU JUST SMILE A LOT, RIGHT? SHOWS YOU'RE REAL TRUST-WORTHY.
WE MIGHT NEED MORE THAN A FEW MINUTES TO WORK THAT ONE OUT...
BY THE WAY, I HEARD JIRO'S LADY-FRIEND WORKS AT THE MARKET!
DO YOU KNOW WHICH STALL?
SHE'S RIGHT ACROSS THE AISLE AT MATSUMOTO'S
CHIE YAMAMOTO.
THE CASHIER? HOW NICE!
SHE'S SUCH A PRETTY--
OH?
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ON BREAK!
THAT'S WEIRD...
SHE WAS JUST THERE A MINUTE AGO...

RESTROOMS
C'MON, YOU GOTTA THINK OF SOMETHING..
C'MONNNNN~~ C'MON, YOU CAN FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS...
PREFERABLY ONE THAT DOESN'T LEAVE YOU OR JIRO PERMANANTLY SCARRED...
UGH, GOTTA THINK...
hhhh

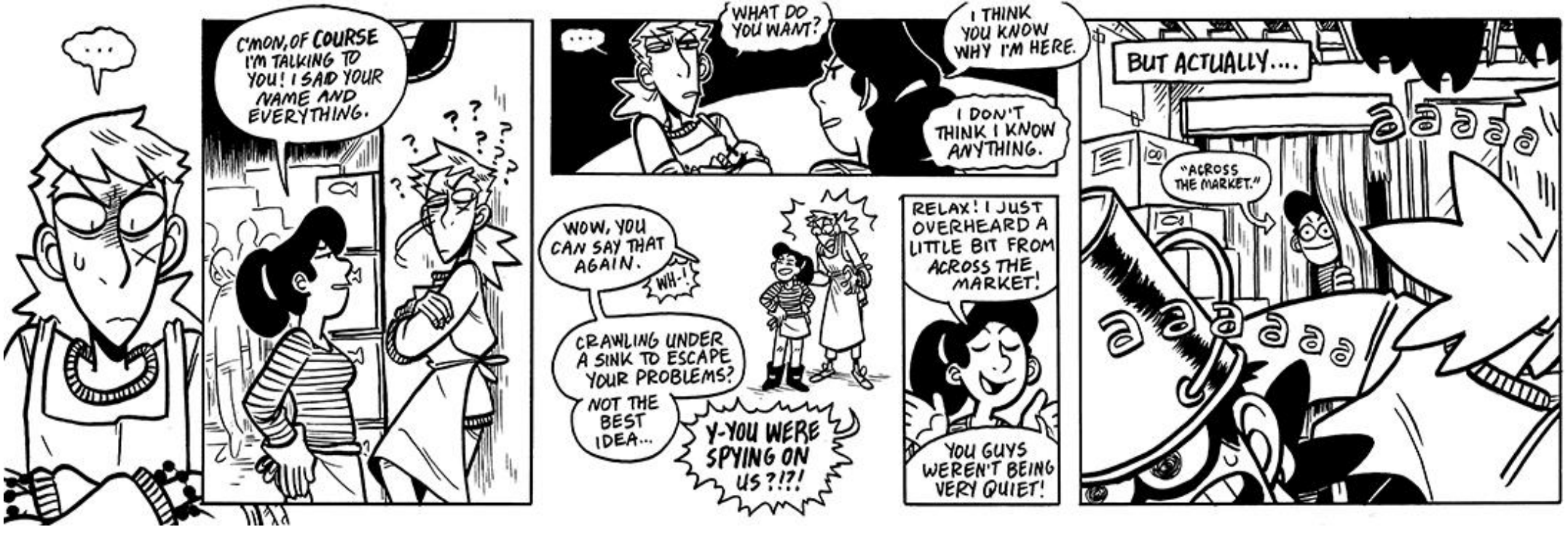
SAKANA VOL.2 KICKSTARTER

THE KICKSTARTER HAS LAUNCHED!!
RUNNING: JULY 25-AUGUST 18!!

- CHAPTERS 9-16
- 198 COMIC STRIPS
- B/W PAGES

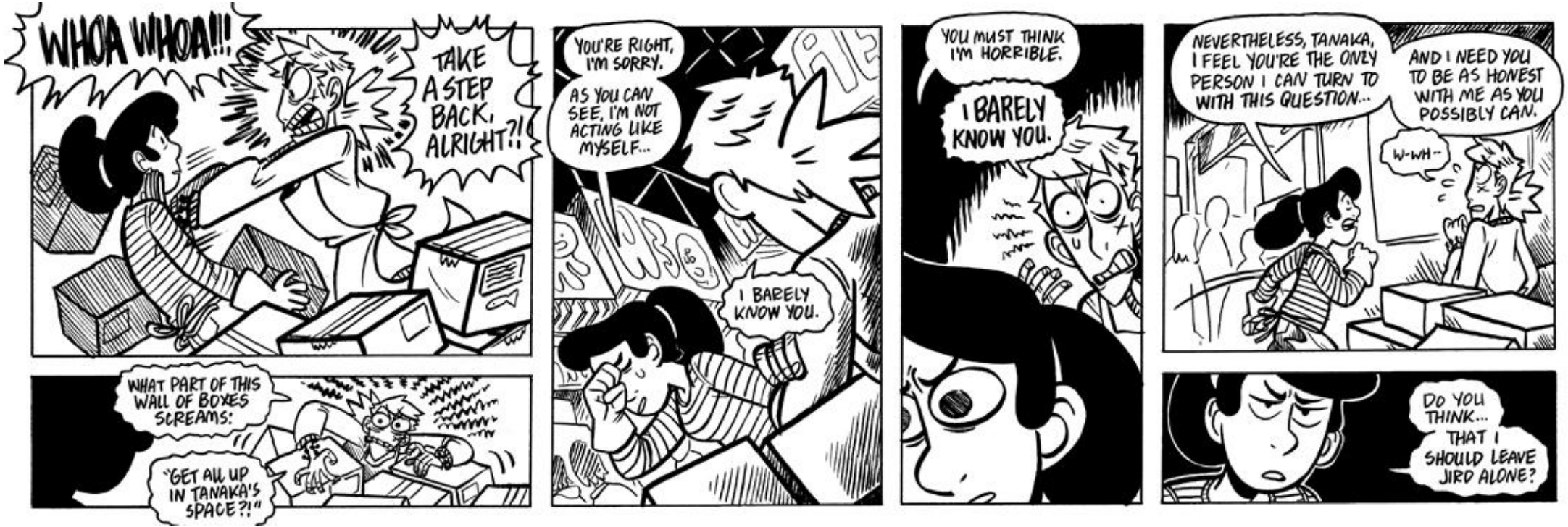
COLOR COVER
BONUS CONTENT
YUUDAI

CHAPTER:XX


C'MON, OF COURSE I'M TALKING TO YOU! I SAID YOUR NAME AND EVERYTHING.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I THINK YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE.
I DON'T THINK I KNOW ANYTHING.
WOW, YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
WH-!
CRAWLING UNDER A SINK TO ESCAPE YOUR PROBLEMS?
NOT THE BEST IDEA...
Y-YOU WERE SPYING ON US?!?!
RELAX! I JUST OVERHEARD A LITTLE BIT FROM ACROSS THE MARKET!
YOU GUYS WEREN'T BEING VERY QUIET!
BUT ACTUALLY....
"ACROSS THE MARKET."

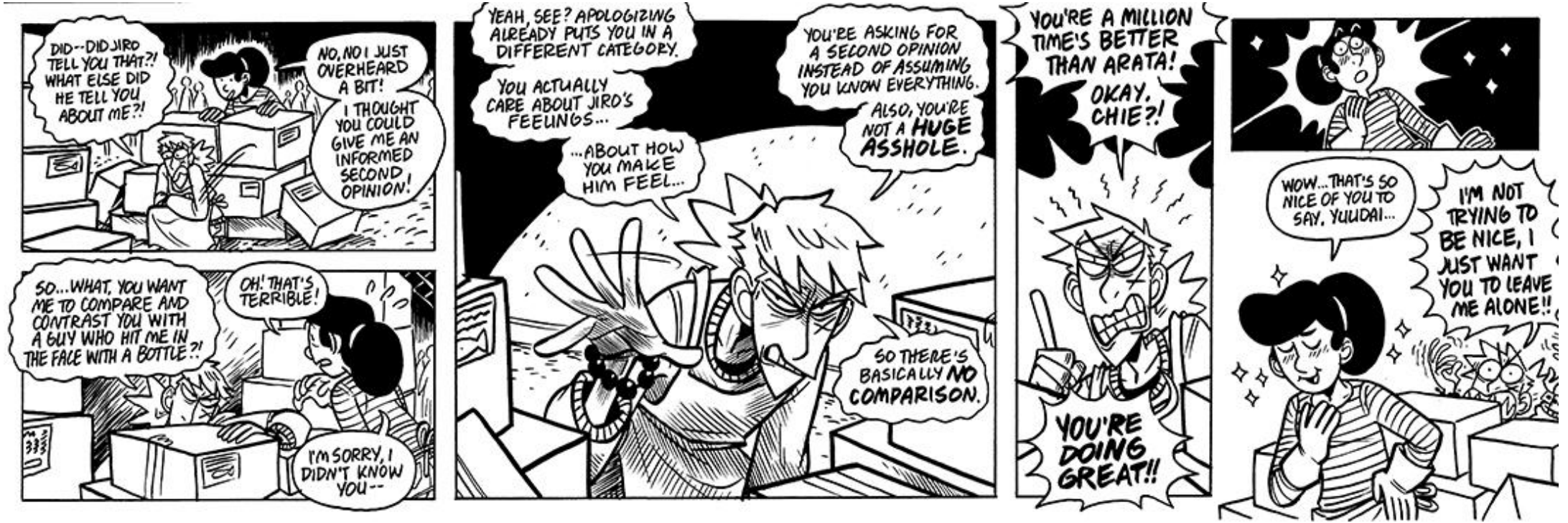
OKAY, DID YOU COME HERE TO-- TO FREAK ME OUT OR SHAKE ME DOWN, OR WHAT?
'CUZ I HAVE... STUFF TO DO, SO BUZZ OFF.
bump
bump
I JUST WANT TO TALK ABOUT JIRO.
IF YOU'RE GONNA THREATEN TO BEAT ME UP ON HIS BEHALF.. TARO DOES THAT AT LEAST FIVE TIMES A WEEK, SO I'M BASICALLY IMMUNE.
NO, NO. I'M...
I'M JUST...
WORRIED.
SHR-
-UG
WORRIED?? WHY?? ALL HE DID WAS CUT ALL HIS HAIR OFF AND RUN AROUND SCREAMING WITH A BUCKET ON HIS HEAD??
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WORRYING ABOUT THAT???
YOU CAN BE VERY UNPLEASANT.

OF COURSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT ALL OF THAT!
BUT I'M ALSO AFRAID THAT--
--THAT I CAN'T HELP...
I MEAN, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO REASSURE HIM ABOUT TONIGHT IF JUST THE THOUGHT OF TONIGHT IS CAUSING HIM THIS MUCH TORMENT?!
YEAH... YOU GOING IN TO COMFORT HIM WOULD BE...
THE WORST IDEA, PROBABLY.
THIS IS LIKE PRESCHOOL ALL OVER AGAIN...
OH YEAH... DIDN'T YOU, LIKE...
PICK ON HIM A LOT?
AND POUR GLUE DOWN HIS PANTS?
AND BITE HIM?
WOW, NO WONDER HE'S SCARED OF GIR--
!!!?
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT!!!
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!!
Bump
I'M BEING SELFISH AND-AND HURTING HIM!!
Bomp


WHOA WHOA!!!
TAKE A STEP BACK, ALRIGHT?!
WHAT PART OF THIS WALL OF BOXES SCREAMS:
"GET ALL UP IN TANAKA'S SPACE?!"
YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M SORRY.
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M NOT ACTING LIKE MYSELF...
I BARELY KNOW YOU.
YOU MUST THINK I'M HORRIBLE.
I BARELY KNOW YOU.
NEVERTHELESS, TANAKA, I FEEL YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I CAN TURN TO WITH THIS QUESTION...
AND I NEED YOU TO BE AS HONEST WITH ME AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.
W-WH--
DO YOU THINK... THAT I SHOULD LEAVE JIRD ALONE?

WHY...
ARE YOU ASKING ME...?
OH! BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT VERY NICE TO JIRO!
WH-WHAT?!
YOU CAN BE PERFECTLY HONEST WITH ME WHETHER IT'S PAINFUL OR NOT!
I DON'T-- I-I KNOW IN THE PAST I'VE BEEN... A LITTLE...
I'VE WORKED ACROSS FROM BOTH OF YOU FOR OVER TWO YEARS.
DON'T "A LITTLE" ME.
WELL RIGHT NOW I'M TRYING TO BE NICER TO JIRO! SO... SO I DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM!
PERFECT!! EVEN BETTER! YOU HAVE HIS BEST INTERESTS IN MIND!
SO, DO IT!! LAY YOUR CRITICISM ON ME!!
DON'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK!
I HATE THIS.

OKAY, FIRST OF ALL, I NEED TO GET BACK TO WORK BEFORE YOUR BUDDING ROMANCE COSTS ME MY JOB.
SECONDLY,
I LOVE TRASH TALKING PEOPLE AS MUCH AS THE NEXT ASSHOLE...
BUT I AM NOT QUALIFIED TO GIVE WHATEVER RELATIONSHIP ADVICE YOU'RE TRYING TO FORCE OUT OF ME.
BECAUSE THIRDLY,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT A GOOD RELATIONSHIP IS LIKE!
SO HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HELP YOU TWO FIGURE IT OUT, WHEN I CAN'T EVEN HELP MYSELF?
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT A BAD RELATIONSHIP IS LIKE...
I WAS JUST HOPING YOU COULD GIVE ME SOME ADVICE ON HOW TO AVOID BEING CRAPPY TO JIRO, LIKE THAT HAT GUY WAS TO YOU!
WELL, YOU--
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT MY BAD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CRAPPY HAT GUY?!?
I WORK RIGHT ACROSS THE AISLE, YUUDAI!!
I WAS, THERE!!


DID--DID JIRO TELL YOU THAT?! WHAT ELSE DID HE TELL YOU ABOUT ME?!
NO, NO! I JUST OVERHEARD A BIT!
I THOUGHT YOU COULD GIVE ME AN INFORMED SECOND OPINION!
SO...WHAT, YOU WANT ME TO COMPARE AND CONTRAST YOU WITH A GUY WHO HIT ME IN THE FACE WITH A BOTTLE?!
OH! THAT'S TERRIBLE!
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU--
YEAH, SEE? APOLOGIZING ALREADY PUTS YOU IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY.
YOU ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT JIRO'S FEELINGS...
...ABOUT HOW YOU MAKE HIM FEEL...
YOU'RE ASKING FOR A SECOND OPINION INSTEAD OF ASSUMING YOU KNOW EVERYTHING.
ALSO, YOU'RE NOT A HUGE ASSHOLE.
SO THERE'S BASICALLY NO COMPARISON.
YOU'RE A MILLION TIME'S BETTER THAN ARATA!
OKAY, CHIE?!
YOU'RE DOING GREAT!!
WOW...THAT'S SO NICE OF YOU TO SAY, YUUDAI...
I'M NOT TRYING TO BE NICE, I JUST WANT YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE!!

WELL, THANK YOU! THAT MAKES ME FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER!
YEAH, OKAY.
I HOPE BEING BETTER THAN THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR IN DATING DOESN'T LESSEN YOUR SELF-SATISFACTION.
NOPE! STILL FEELS GREAT!
...
great.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, YOU'VE WASTED ALL THE TIME I HAD TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO FOR JIRO.
I HAVE TO GET BACK BEFORE THE WHOLE PLACE BURNS DOWN.
OH! I THINK I KNOW WHAT TO DO!
PLEASE, WE CAN'T HELP HIM. HIS FAMILY CAN'T HELP HIM...
THERE'S NO EASY SOLUTION TO--

JUST CALL HIS BIG FRIEND!
...
Y...
H...
HOW DID...
...YOU KNOW I HAVE HIS NUMBER...?
I DIDN'T! HEHE-- LUCKY GUESS!
YOU-

I-I CAN'T JUST-- HE'S PROBABLY AT WORK!! I-I COULDN'T JUST-- JUST CALL HIM...
THAT'S-- IT CAN'T JUST HAPPEN LIKE THAT--
IT'S ALMOST NOON! MAYBE HE HAS SOME TIME OVER LUNCH!
I MEAN, I'D WANT TO KNOW IF MY ROOMMATE CUT OFF HIS HAIR AND PUT A BUCKET ON HIS HEAD...
UNLESS... YOU DON'T THINK CALLING HIM IS A GOOD IDEA?
NO! IT'S THE PERFECT IDEA!! HE'S JIRO'S BEST FRIEND! JIRO TRUSTS HIM!! HE'S PROBABLY OUR BEST BET SHORT OF SMUGGLING A BARBER INTO THE MARKET!!
THERE'S NO REASON WE SHOULDN'T CALL HIM!
SO... WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
TH-THERE'S NO PROBLEM...
DO YOU-
I'M LEAVING.

WAIT, WAIT, YUUDAI!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO PRESUME ANYTHING!
hrrrghm.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

SOMETIMES I CAN BE A LITTLE TOO DIRECT, SO...
IF I'VE MADE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE, I'M SORRY FOR BEING, UH...

--terrible.

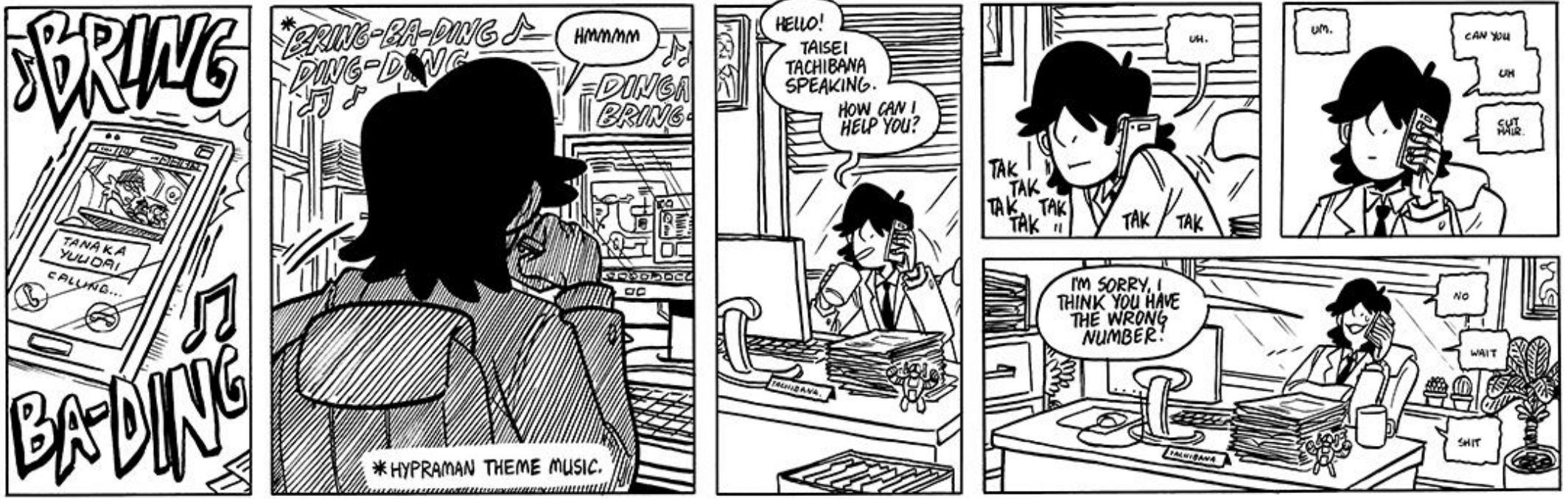
BUT I PROMISE YOU, MY TERRORIZING DAYS ARE OVER!
I'M JUST CONCERNED ABOUT JIRO'S WELLBEING.
hmh.
I'M SORRY FOR PUTTING YOU ON THE SPOT.

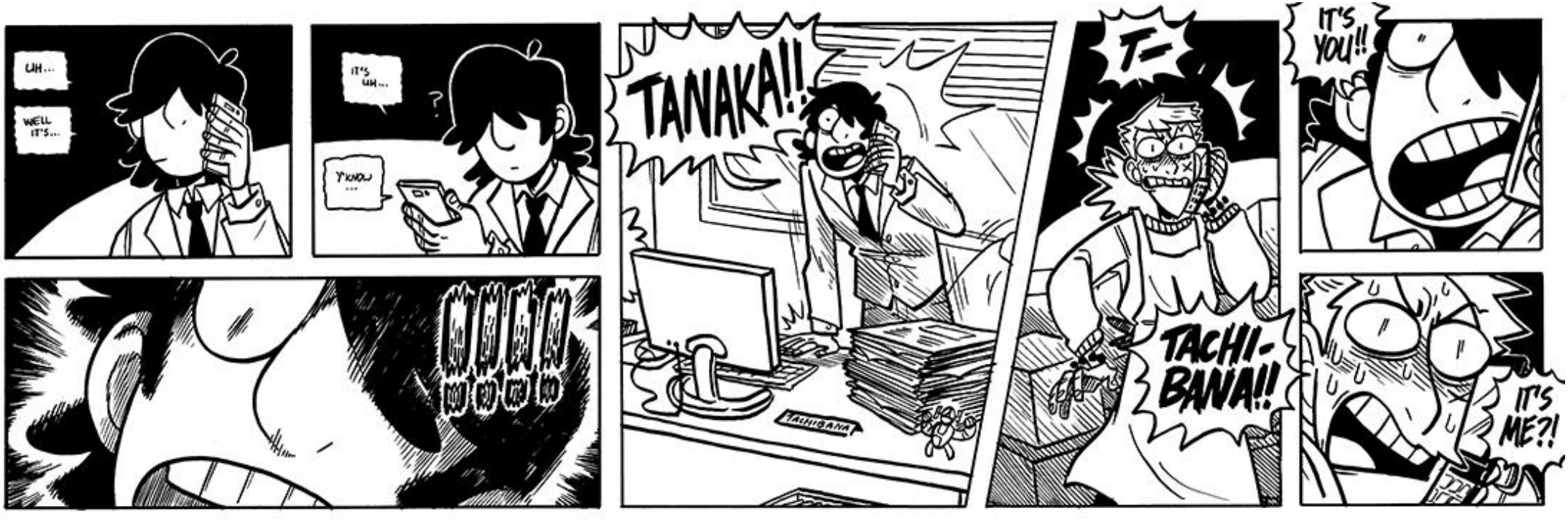
THAT'S... ALRIGHT.
I GUESS I'M... WORRIED ABOUT...
HIM?
TOO?

THAT'S NICE OF YOU!
BUT, ONLY DO WHAT YOU'RE COMFORTABLE DOING, OKAY?
NICE?

I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT FOR THE BEST!

BUT...
EVERYTHING MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE.


BRING
TANAKA YUUDAI
CALLING...
BA-DING
*BRING-BA-DING DING-DING
HMMMM
DINGA BRING
*HYPRAMAN THEME MUSIC.
HELLO! TAISEI TACHIBANA SPEAKING. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
TACHIBANA
UH.
TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK
UM.
CAN YOU UH CUT HAIR.
I'M SORRY, I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG NUMBER!
NO
WAIT
SHIT
TACHIBANA


UH...
WELL IT'S...
IT'S UH...
Y'KNOW...
TOO TOO TOO TOO
TANAKA!!
TACHIBANA
T-
TACHI-BANA!!
IT'S YOU!!
IT'S ME?!

I'M SO GLAD YOU CALLED! WHAT A COINCIDENCE!!
OR--DID MY TEXT ACTUALLY SEND THIS MORNING?
TEXT...?
YEAH! I TRIED TO MESSAGE YOU, BUT YOUR INBOX WAS FULL!
OH...
THE ONE YOU WERE WEARING ON SATURD--OH--
GEHEHE, I GUESS THIS IS KIND OF ABOUT LAST WEEKEND!
AH-BUT I ALSO SAW YOU ON A TV AD FOR THE FISH MARKET THIS MORNING!!
AND--I WOULD'VE CALLED YOU, BUT...WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU UNNECESSARILY!
WE'VE ONLY JUST MET AND I KNOW SPEAKING ON THE PHONE CAN BE A LITTLE AWKWARD!
BUT HERE YOU ARE CALLING ME!!
GEHEHE, I WAS WORRIED FOR NOTHING!!
IT MUST BE FATE!
MY...PHONE IS BROKEN.
UH--
W-WHY DID YOU TEXT ME...?
IF IT'S ABOUT LAST WEEKEND--
OH, NO, NO!
I JUST FOUND YOUR HAT!
....
MY HAT?
A TV AD.....
I NEVER AGREED TO BE IN ANY TV AD.....
F.
FATE.
SO, WAS THAT WHY YOU CALLED?
OR WAS THERE ANOTHER REASON?
?
WAIT SHIT JIRO

JIRO?! IS HE OKAY?!
YES, WELL...
YOU KNOW HE'S GOING OUT WITH EVERYONE ON THAT GROUP DATE TONIGHT.
AND HE CAN GET A LITTLE--
WAIT...
WHAT GROUP DATE?
O-OH, UH--I-IT'S JUST A LITTLE THING, UM--
EVERYBODY'S GOING ON A GROUP DATE WITHOUT ME?!
W-WELL, NOT EVERYONE, JUST... JIRO, AND CHIE... TARO... OTHER WOMEN... THAT GERMAN GUY...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE EVERYONE!!
WAS... WAS I TOO ANNOYING ON THE FIRST DATE?
Y-YOU--
I-IT'S NOTHING... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!
I-I MEAN... THEY DIDN'T INVITE ME EITHER! HAH! HAHA!
NOT LIKE I'D WANT TO GO! HAH!
I WANNA GO...
OH NO AHA
D-DON'T WORRY SO MUCH, OKAY?
I-IT'S A... COMPLICATED SITUATION, UH... BUT NO ONE IS UPSET AT YOU!
THERE'S A DIFFERENT PROBLEM RIGHT NOW...
OKAYYYYY YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS YOUR FAULT! I'M SORRY FOR THE OUTBURST.
100% YUUDAI'S FAULT

WELL...IF YOU WEREN'T INVITED, I COULD..
I-I'D UNDERSTAND IF YOU JUST WANTED TO GET BACK TO WORK.
PICK. PICK
WHAT? NO!!
SURE I'M BUMMED, BUT A GROUP DATE SOUNDS LIKE A LOT FOR JIRO TO HANDLE!!
IS HE OKAY?
WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER... OKAY FOR JIRO?
peeeeeel
AS LONG AS HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING DRASTIC...
LIKE CUTTING OFF ALL HIS HAIR?
SNAP
YEAH, LIKE--
...
I'LL BE THERE IN 20 MINUTES.

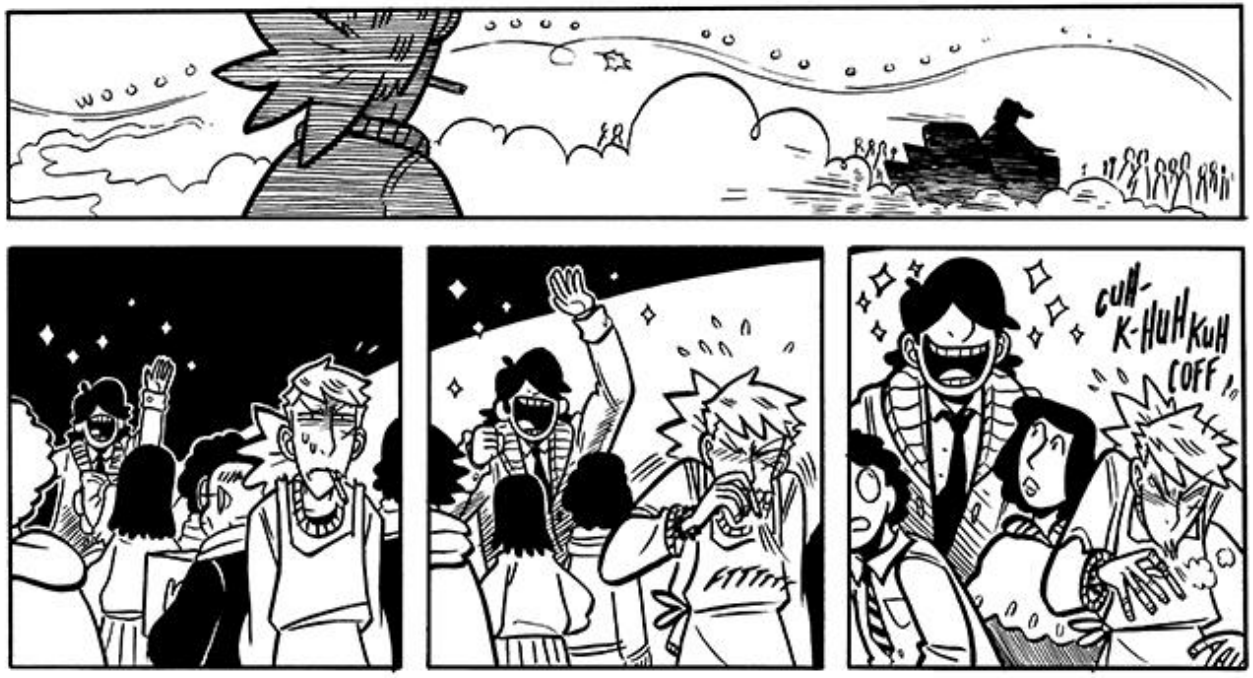
CLICK
CLICK!!
SALE!!
SALE!!
SALE

20 MINUTES LATER...
ENTER
DETERMINED!
SALE
SO MANY SCOOTERS!!!
0% APR FOR SIX MONTHS!
¥250000
BACK TO BEING DETERMINED

TANAKA SAID HE'D MEET ME BY THE FRONT ENTRANCE, BUT...
UGH, THIS PLACE IS ALWAYS SO CROWDED!
OH!
THERE HE IS!
NEWS
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
TANAKA!! HEY--
!!!
CHUP CHUP CHU
HAHA HA HA

SO! DID YOU GET RID OF THE CAT OR AM I GONNA HAVE T'A DROP AN ANONYMOUS TIP AT THE HEALTH INSPECTOR'S OFFICE?
YOU LEAVE MY CAT OUT OF THIS!!!
AND IT'S NOT ANONYMOUS IF--
I-I MEAN--I'M SORRY!! HOW RUDE OF ME!
M-MUR--
UH--
HIDEO?
MY FRIEND?
WHAT THE HELL?!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, KID?!
N-NOTHING! J-JUST TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY TO MY VERY BEST PAL, HIDEO MURA!
HAHA. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
Y--YOU HAVE A WIFE, RIGHT? HOW IS SHE?
A-AND YOUR DAUGHTER? DOING WELL?
I HOPE THEY'RE BOTH HAPPY AND HEALTHY--
ENOUGH!!!
I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES BUT--LOOK... I'LL BACK OFF THE CAT ISSUE, ALRIGHT?
CHUP CHUP
JUST LEAVE MY FAMILY OUT OF THIS!!!
WAIT. NO. THAT'S NOT WHAT I...
ZOOM


WOOOO
CUH-
K-HUHKUH
COFF
TANAKA!!

HI THERE!!
H-HELLO.

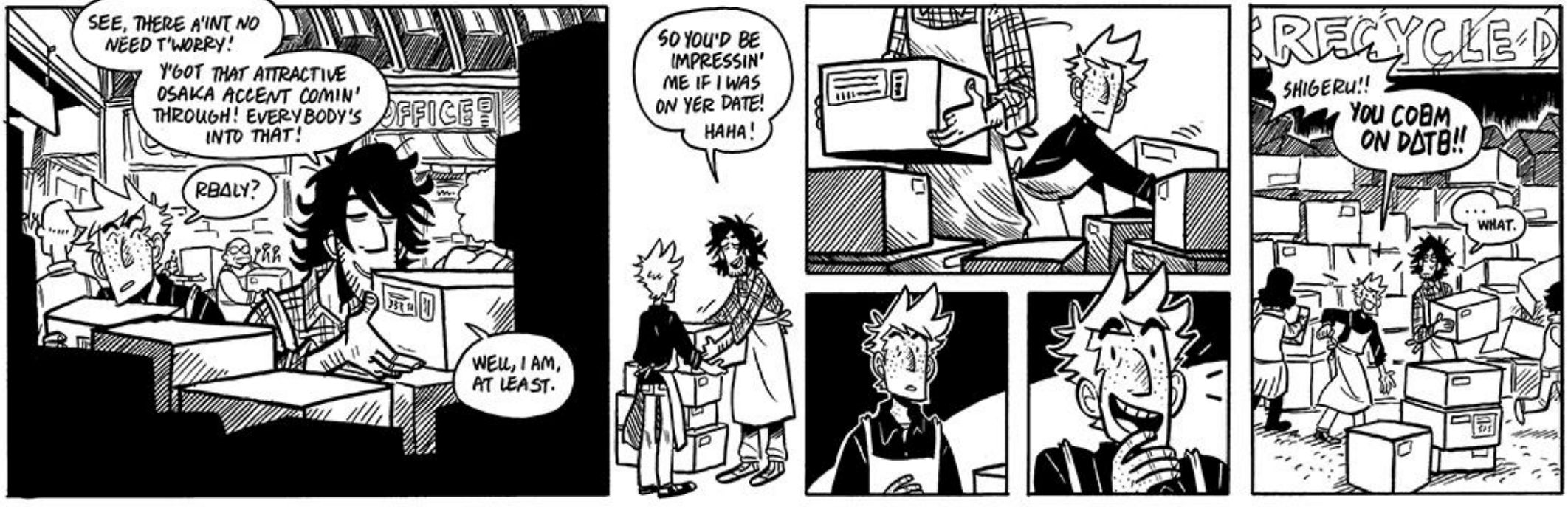
IT'S SO GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!!
I'M SORRY, I LEFT YOUR HAT AT HOME WHEN I COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU THIS MORNING!
BUT, I'LL GET IT BACK TO YOU ASAP!!
AH--YES. SURE.
GOOD TO SEE... YOU.
UH, ABOUT WHAT YOU JUST SAW...
OH, THE GUY ON THE CART? HAHA, I KNOW YOU GUYS AT THE MARKET LIKE TO KID AROUND!
THE CULTURE HERE IS MUCH MORE CASUAL THAN AT MY OFFICE!
CASUAL...
BUT ANYWAYS, HOW ARE YOU? HOW'S EVERYTHING HOLDING UP?
IF BY 'HOLDING UP' YOU MEAN 'SLIDING INTO CHAOS', THEN...
OH NO, JIRO'S NOT THAT FAR GONE, IS HE?
HAHA, YES I WAS DEFINITELY REFFERING TO JIRO JUST NOW.
WELL, TANAKA, YOUR WORRIES ARE OVER! I HAVE OVER 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS JIRO'S BEST FRIEND!
I PROMISE, I WILL DEFINITELY FIX THIS DILEMMA!
OR AT LEAST... Y'KNOW...
GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT.
HAH.
OKAY, I'LL, UH... LEAVE IT TO YOU, THEN.
YES! YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!!
I-I'LL... TRY TO DO THAT...

CHAPTER:XXI

YOU LOOK VERY NICE.
THAT IS A NICE SHIRT.
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO SIT?
DO YOU HAVE A NICE NIGHT--
ARE YOU HAVING A NICE NIGHT!
DO YOU WANT A DRINK?
DO YOU WANT FOOD?
YOU LOOK VERY CUTE.
WOW! THIS STALL IS SO... COMPLIMENTARY!
OH, WE WANNA MAKE SHUR OUR PATRONS FEEL REAL--
BEAUTIFUL!
APPRECIATED.

ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT FER THE LUNCH RUSH. YÀLL CAN START PACKIN' UP LEFTOVERS.
OK.
ÀH, SHIGERU, RÐÐLLY QUICK... CAN HÐLP MÐ PRÐCTIS?
FOR DÐTÐ?
OH, SHUR. LAY IT ON ME.
ahem.
HEÐLLO, NICÐ LÐDY. THÐNK YOU GO ON DÐTÐ WITH MÐ.
YOÐ LOOK VÐRY NICÐ. THÐT IS Ð NICÐ SHIRT.
ÀH, VERY CHÀRMIN'. ÀN' WHÀT COLOR IS MY SHIRT?
UH...
NO PEEKIN' IN THE BOOK, NOW. GOTTA WORK ON YER VOCÀB.
UM...
Ð VÐRY BÐÐUTIFUL-
SNAP
SHIRT COLOR?
GOOD! BONUS POINTS FER IMPROVISÀTION.
YOU'LL HÀVE EVERYBODY IN TOKYO BEGGIN' FER DÀTES WITH SMOOTH LINES LIKE THÀT.
HÀHÀHÀ, THÐNKS!

RIGHT, THEN LET'S START PACKIN' UP THE BOXES OUTSIDE.
AH... SHIGERU?
... YOU THINK... I REALLY BE OK ON DATE?
OH, SHUR YA WILL, JAN! Y'GOT ALL THE LINES DOWN!
YA...
BUT TALK LIKE BABBY KID. NOT REAL TALKING...
LISTEN, KID. Y'GOT NEARLY THREE WHOLE LANGUAGES UNDER YER BELT! I ONLY GOT THE ONE!
AN' IF THIS'S THE RIGHT KINDA GAL, I'M SHUR SHE WON'T MIND A LIL'... CREATIVE INTERPRETASHUN.
BUT...
IF YER STILL WORRIED, Y'COULD TRY THINKIN' A' THE WAY Y'HEAR PEOPLE TALK AROUND YA?
AT THE APARTMENT AN' HERE AT WORK.
MEBBE MAKE IT SOUND A LIL' MORE NATURAL?
HM...
OK, I TRY...
YA'LL'RE LOOKIN' REAL NICE IN THAT THERE SHIRT!
I'M SO PROUD A' YOU.


SEE, THERE A'INT NO NEED T'WORRY!
Y'GOT THAT ATTRACTIVE OSAKA ACCENT COMIN' THROUGH! EVERYBODY'S INTO THAT!
OFFICE
REALLY?
WELL, I AM, AT LEAST.
SO YOU'D BE IMPRESSIN' ME IF I WAS ON YER DATE!
HAHA!
RECYCLED
SHIGERU!!
YOU COME ON DATE!!
...
WHAT.

YEA!! YOU COME WITH, HELP!!
NO GET LOST, OR BE CONFUSED!
NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE! Y'DON'T NEED ME T'MIND YOU OUT IN THE CITY!
YER GONNA BE FINE WITH THE SAKANAS.
BUT IT BE FUN!
THERE'S PLENTY A'PEOPLE GOIN' ALREADY, AN' I A'INT GONNA BE A...
SEVENTH WHEEL.
PLUS, I WASN'T INVITED IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I INVITED YOU!
I KNOW THAT A'INT HOW DATES WORK IN GERM'NY, AN' IT A'IN'T HOW THEY WORK HERE NEITHER.
AH.

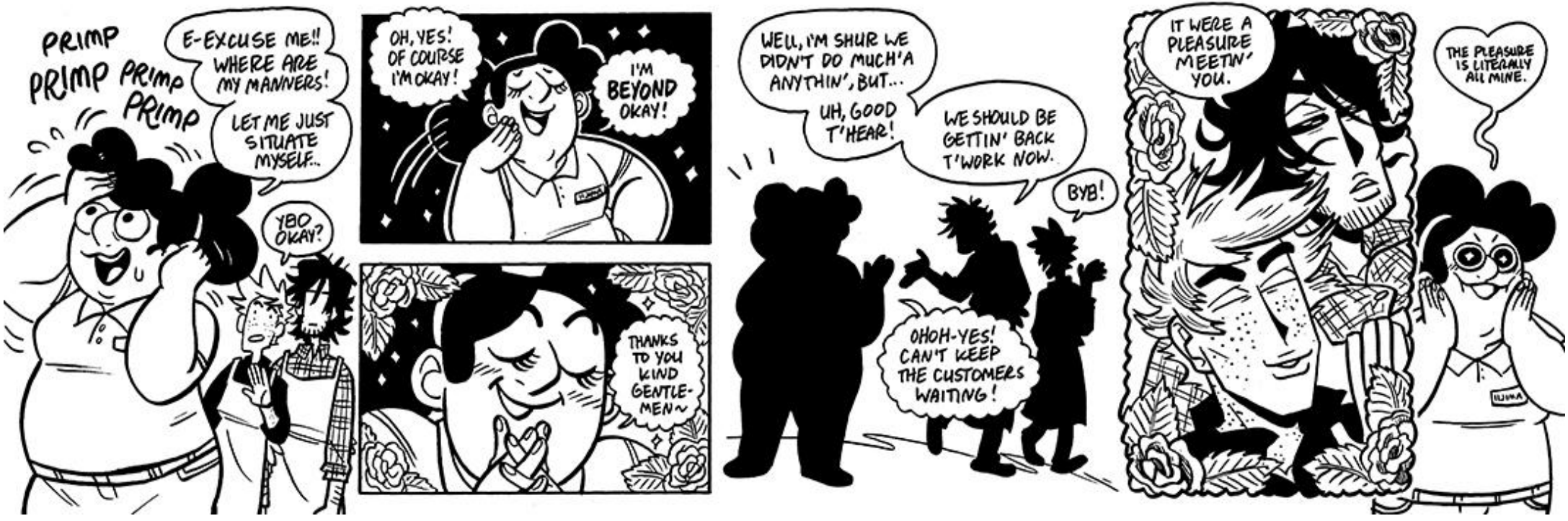
SORRY, YOU RIBΔT.
NOT MBΔN BΘ RUDΘ.
PAT PAT
S'OKAY, KID. I KNOW YER JUS' NERVOUS.

BUT YER GONNA HAVE A GREAT TIME!
OUT ON TH' TOWN. SEEIN' TH' SIGHTS.
MEETIN' A NICE LADY--

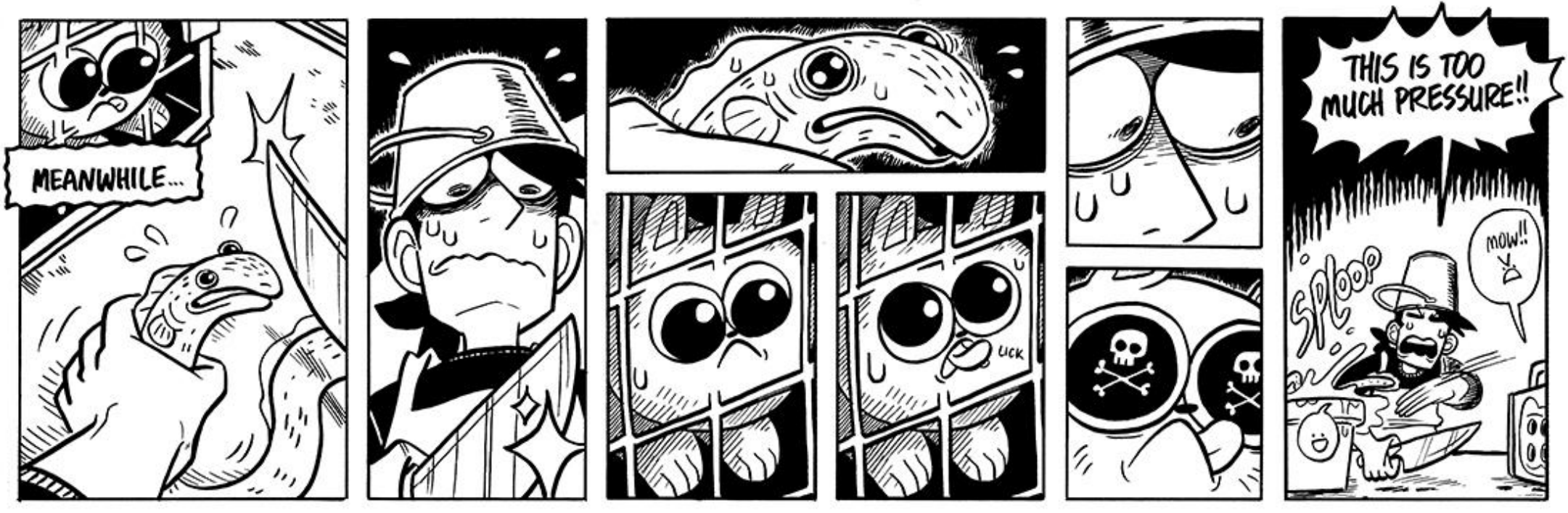
BONP
HM?

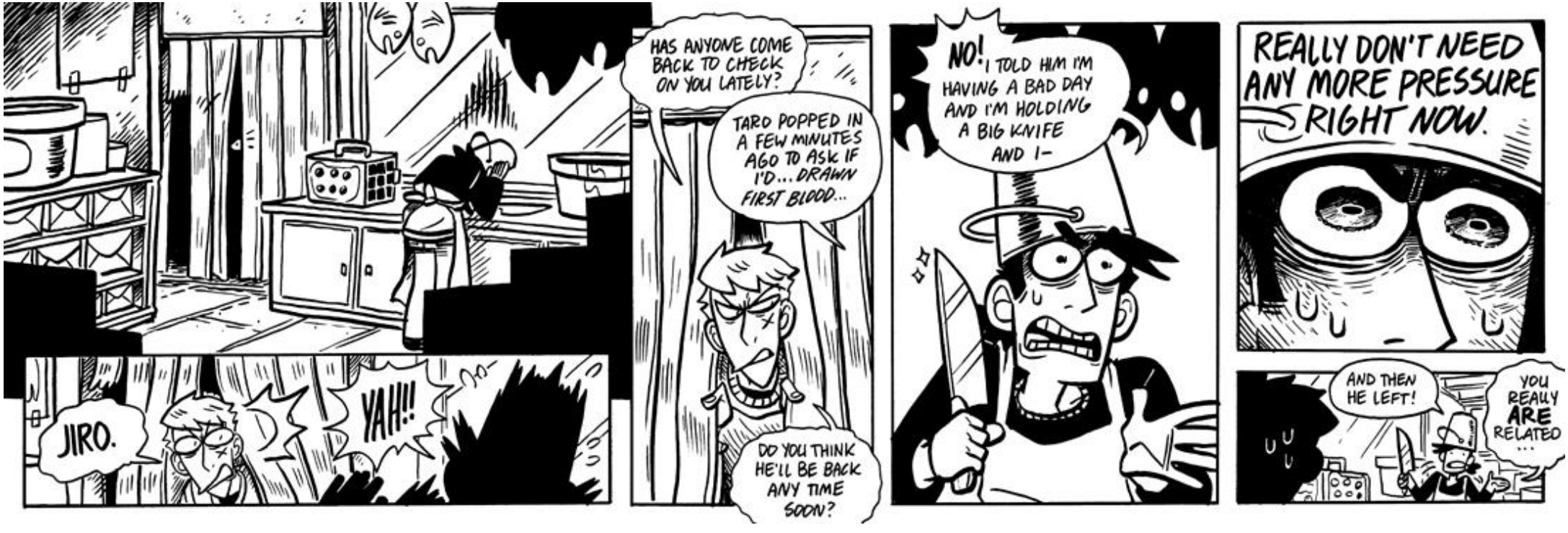
OWWW!!
WHO LEFT THESE BOXES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AISLE?

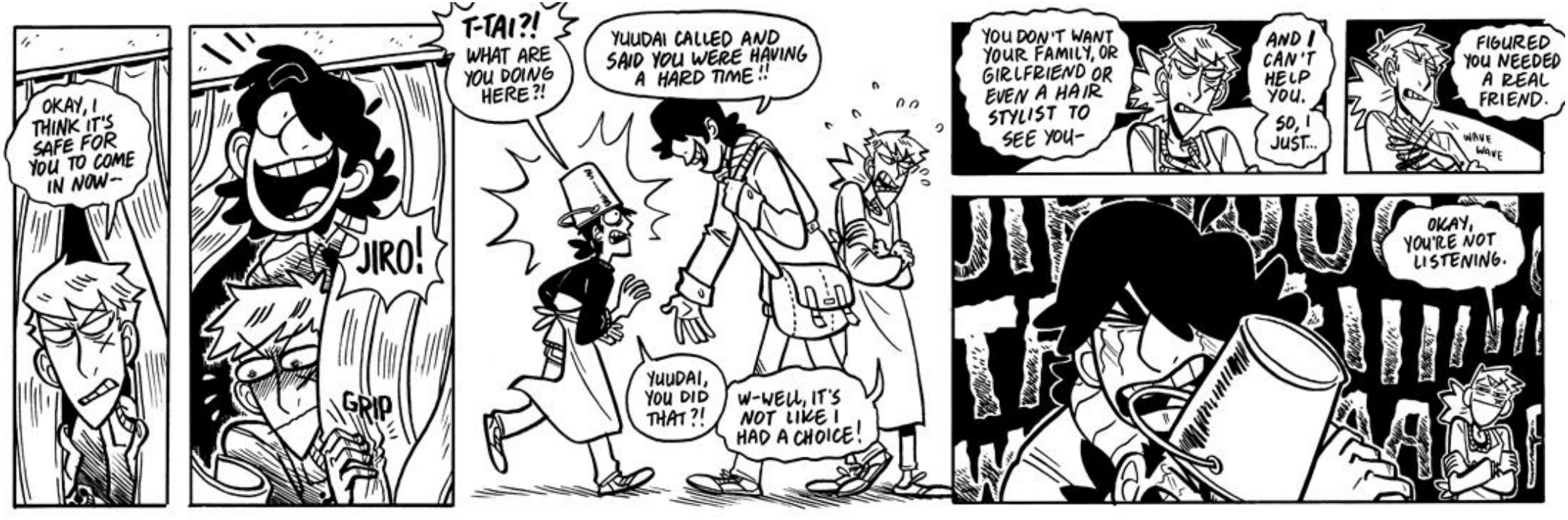
UGH!
AH, THAT MY FAULT!
NOT PUT BOOKS IN HALL AGAIN.
STILL LEARNING! SORRY!
Y'DOIN' ALRIGHT THERE, MISS?


PRIMP
PRIMP PRIMP
PRIMP
E-EXCUSE ME!! WHERE ARE MY MANNERS!
LET ME JUST SITUATE MYSELF...
YBO OKAY?
OH, YES! OF COURSE I'M OKAY!
I'M BEYOND OKAY!
THANKS TO YOU KIND GENTLE-MEN~
WELL, I'M SHUR WE DIDN'T DO MUCH'A ANYTHIN', BUT...
UH, GOOD T'HEAR!
WE SHOULD BE GETTIN' BACK T'WORK NOW.
BYB!
OHOH-YES! CAN'T KEEP THE CUSTOMERS WAITING!
IT WERE A PLEASURE MEETIN' YOU.
THE PLEASURE IS LITERALLY ALL MINE.
IUMA

OHOHOHO, CHIE'S GONNA HEAR ABOUT THIS!!
boop boop
OH! M'AM!
YOU WEAR VERY NICE SHIRT!
SNAP!
gasp.
MUD
FLOOR DIRT
??
IIJIMA
FISH GUTS
KNIFE SLASH
...
JEEZE, SANGO.
EXPECTING A CUTE GUY TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FASHION?
NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING GREEDY.

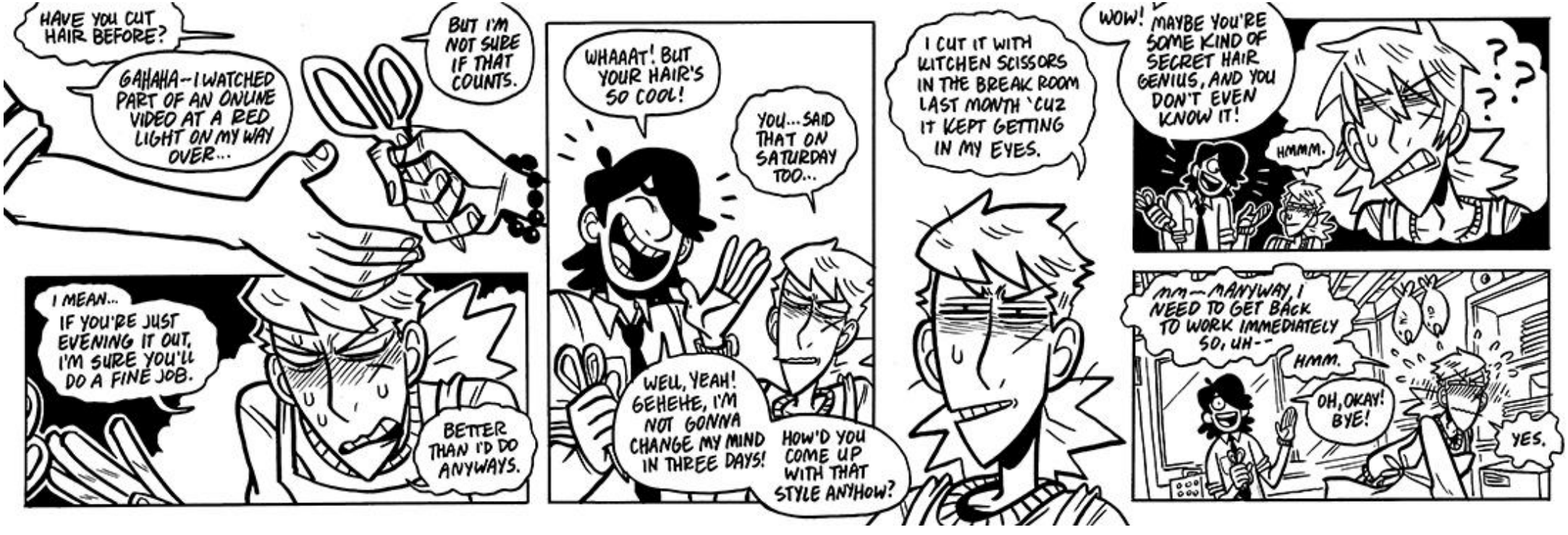

MEANWHILE...
LICK
THIS IS TOO MUCH PRESSURE!!
Sploop
MOW!!

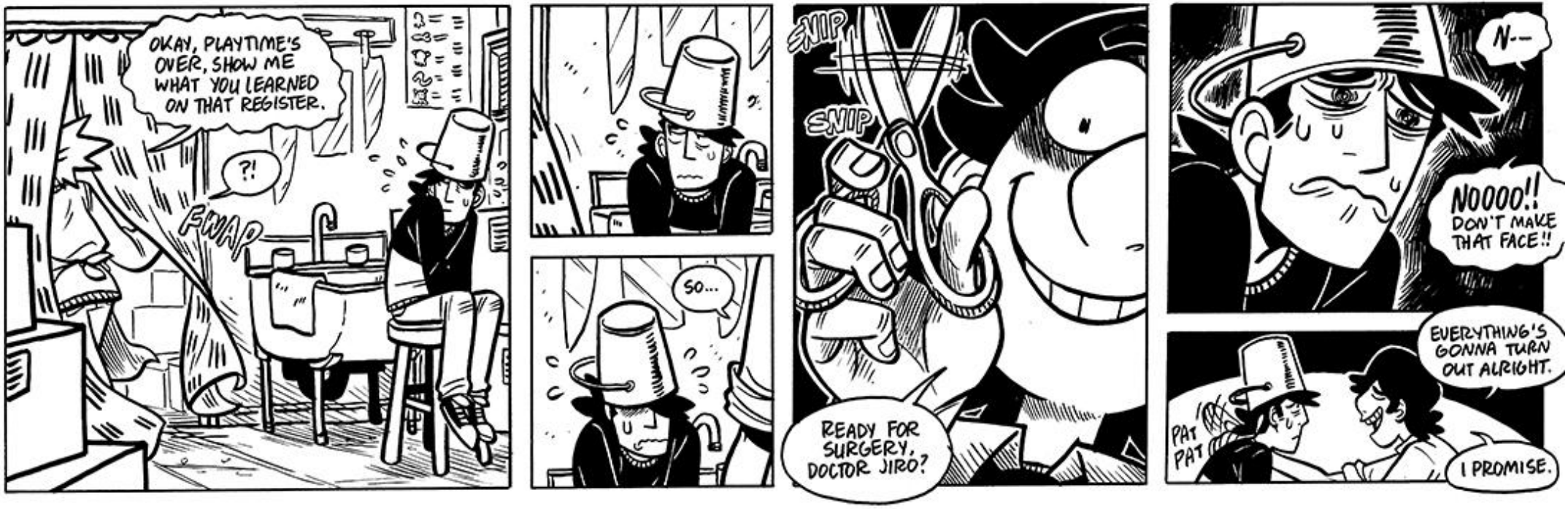

JIRO.
YAH!!
HAS ANYONE COME BACK TO CHECK ON YOU LATELY?
TARO POPPED IN A FEW MINUTES AGO TO ASK IF I'D... DRAWN FIRST BLOOD...
DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE BACK ANY TIME SOON?
NO! I TOLD HIM I'M HAVING A BAD DAY AND I'M HOLDING A BIG KNIFE AND I-
REALLY DON'T NEED ANY MORE PRESSURE RIGHT NOW.
AND THEN HE LEFT!
YOU REALLY ARE RELATED ...


OKAY, I THINK IT'S SAFE FOR YOU TO COME IN NOW-
JIRO!
GRIP
T-TAI?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
YUUDAI CALLED AND SAID YOU WERE HAVING A HARD TIME!!
YUUDAI, YOU DID THAT?!
W-WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A CHOICE!
YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FAMILY, OR GIRLFRIEND OR EVEN A HAIR STYLIST TO SEE YOU-
AND I CAN'T HELP YOU. SO, I JUST...
FIGURED YOU NEEDED A REAL FRIEND.
WAVE WAVE
OKAY, YOU'RE NOT LISTENING.

AWW, TAI YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO LEAVE WORK ON MY ACCOUNT!
NO, NO, IT'S OKAY!
I WANTED TO HELP!
I JUST...WISH YOU WOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING LAST NIGHT!
I KNOW ALL THIS DATE STUFF IS STRESSFUL FOR YOU, BUT...
MAYBE WE COULD'VE TALKED ABOUT NEW HAIRDOS TOGETHER?
...BEFORE YOU CUT IT ALL OFF?
TAISEI, I... I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU I WAS GOING ON A SECOND DATE--
I WANTED YOU TO COME, IT'S JUST--
I, UH...
UM...
IT'S OKAY, DUDE! WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER!
RIGHT NOW, LET'S FOCUS ON GETTING YOU SHIP-SHAPE FOR YOUR DATE!
whew

SO, TELL ME WHAT WE'RE WORKING WITH, JIRO.
UH...NOT A LOT... I-IT'S PRETTY BAD.
MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK?
OKAY, BUT... PLEASE DON'T LAUGH.
KLAT
WHO'D DO A THING LIKE THAT?
KOFF-
...
I'LL JUST PUT THIS BACK FOR NOW...
PLEASE.
WISH ME LUCK...
ALRIGHT! I THINK HAIR PRODUCT IS WHAT'S REALLY GONNA SAVE THE DAY.
BUT I CAN EVEN THINGS OUT IN THE MEANTIME!
YUUDAI! CAN I BORROW A PAIR OF SCISSORS?
UH-- SURE.


HAVE YOU CUT HAIR BEFORE?
GAHAHA--I WATCHED PART OF AN ONLINE VIDEO AT A RED LIGHT ON MY WAY OVER...
BUT I'M NOT SURE IF THAT COUNTS.
I MEAN... IF YOU'RE JUST EVENING IT OUT, I'M SURE YOU'LL DO A FINE JOB.
BETTER THAN I'D DO ANYWAYS.
WHAAAT! BUT YOUR HAIR'S SO COOL!
YOU... SAID THAT ON SATURDAY TOO...
WELL, YEAH! GEHEHE, I'M NOT GONNA CHANGE MY MIND IN THREE DAYS!
HOW'D YOU COME UP WITH THAT STYLE ANYHOW?
I CUT IT WITH KITCHEN SCISSORS IN THE BREAK ROOM LAST MONTH 'CUZ IT KEPT GETTING IN MY EYES.
WOW! MAYBE YOU'RE SOME KIND OF SECRET HAIR GENIUS, AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IT!
HMMM.
??
MM--ANYWAY, I NEED TO GET BACK TO WORK IMMEDIATELY SO, UH--
HMM.
OH, OKAY! BYE!
YES.


OKAY, PLAYTIME'S OVER, SHOW ME WHAT YOU LEARNED ON THAT REGISTER.
?!
FWAP
SO...
SNIP
SNIP
READY FOR SURGERY, DOCTOR JIRO?
N--
NOOOO!! DON'T MAKE THAT FACE!!
EVERYTHING'S GONNA TURN OUT ALRIGHT.
PAT PAT
I PROMISE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL EVER BE FINE AGAIN...
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST SHAVE MY HEAD...
NO, NO! THERE'S PLENTY OF HAIR TO WORK WITH!
IN FACT, I'VE ALREADY GOT SOME STYLES IN MIND!
LEMME LOOK UP SOME PICTURES!
BOOP BOOP
THEY'RE NOT, LIKE... HYPRAMAN HAIR STYLES, ARE THEY?
PFF-- WHAT?! NO!!
HYPRAMAN WEARS A MASK, JIRO!
THAT WOULDN'T WORK AT ALL!
THIS IS WHAT I WAS THINKING.
RENEWED FOR SEASON 10
THIS IS THE ACTOR THAT PLAYS HYPRAMAN.
BUT HE'S GOT REALLY HANDSOME HAIR, JIRO!
YOU WANT HANDSOME HAIR, RIGHT!

POP
I...I DO WANT HANDSOME HAIR...
THAT'S ALL I EVER WANTED...
I'LL START SLOW, ALRIGHT? JUST A FEW SNIPS HERE AND THERE! HOW'S THAT SOUND?
SNIP
SNIP
S-SOUNDS GOOD...
AND IF YOU GET FREAKED OUT, JUST SAY THE WORD AND I'LL PUT DOWN THE SCISSORS!
OKAY... I'LL BE FINE... JUST GO AHEAD.
HERE WE GO!
SNIP!!
SEE! IT'S NOT SO BAD!
J-JUST EVENING IT OUT...
YEAH! YOU'LL LOOK JUST LIKE HYPRAMAN IN NO TIME!
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING FOR THE ACTOR...
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
BFF'S!
YEAH! THAT'S WHAT I MEANT!

SNIP
Y'KNOW WHAT... IT DOESN'T MATTER. CUT IT HOWEVER YOU WANT.
JIRO, THIS IS ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT.
I WANT TO BE THE KIND OF GUY WHO DOESN'T CUT HIS HAIR IN A FIT OF PANIC.
WELL...
THAT MIGHT TAKE A LITTLE LONGER THAN A LUNCH BREAK TO FIX.
SHRUG
BUT IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, SHE PROBABLY ISN'T DATING YOU JUST FOR YOUR HAIR.
SHE MIGHT'VE BEEN...
OH! IN THAT CASE...
WHY DON'T WE SWEEP ALL THESE CLIPPINGS INTO A LITTLE BAGGIE?
YOU CAN GIVE IT TO HER ON YOUR DATE TONIGHT!
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT
GEHEHEHAHA, IT WAS JUST A JOKE, JIRO!!
PFFFHAHAAHA
WHAT THE HELL?! THAT'S SO GROSS!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID SHE WAS SUPER INTO YOUR HAIR!
TRY TO BE A LITTLE MORE UNDERSTANDING, JIRO, JEEZE!!

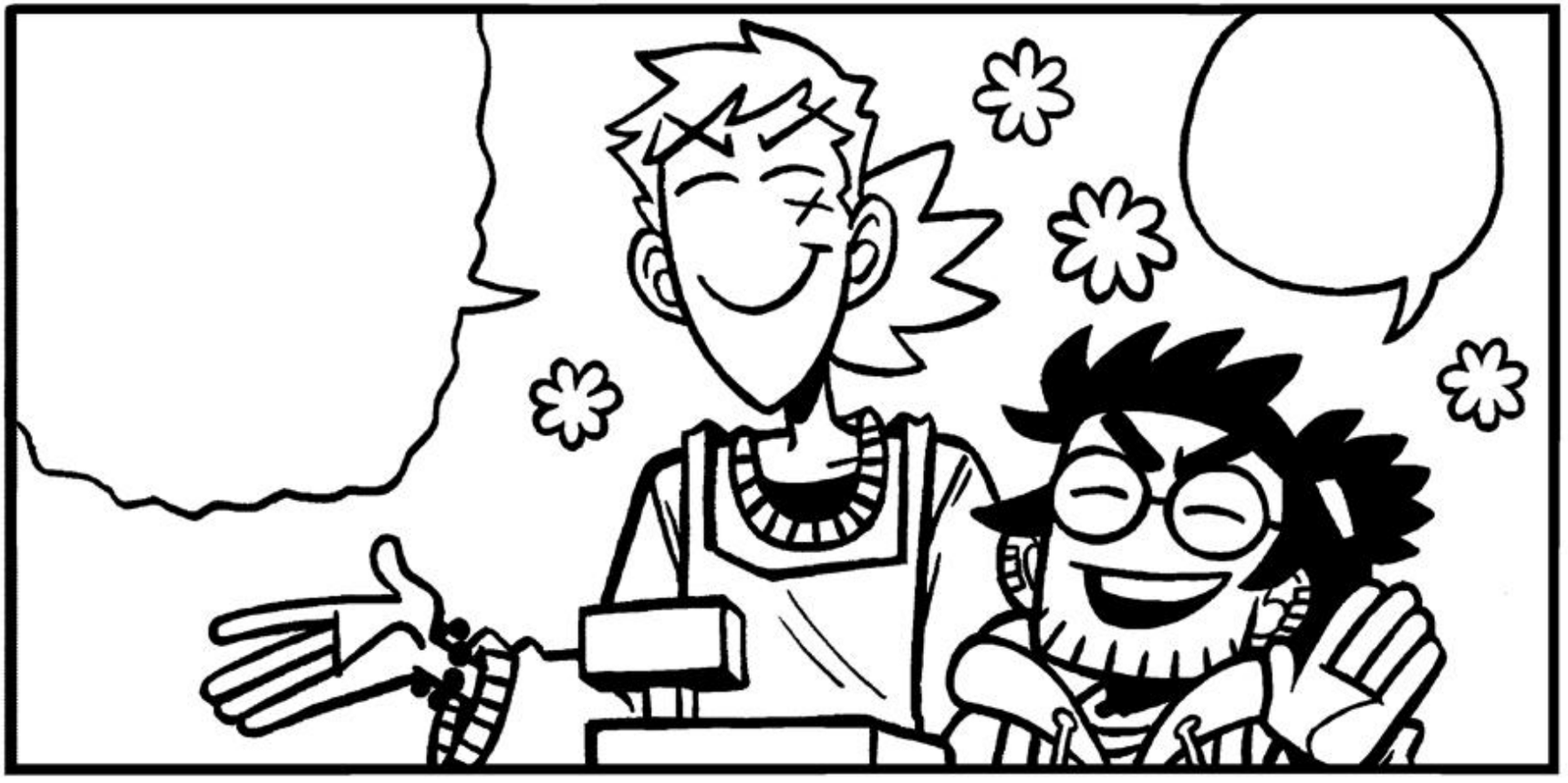
HAHAHA.
HMMM.
FEELING BETTER?
A LITTLE.
YOU ALWAYS KNOW HOW TO CHEER ME UP.
AW! WELL--
DON'T GIVE ME TOO MUCH CREDIT YET.
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN MY HANDIWORK.
AND THERE'S STILL ONE BIG DECISION LEFT TO MAKE...

...
GO AHEAD.
CUT IT OFF.
REALLY? BUT YOUR LITTLE PONYTAIL IS SO... SO YOU!
THAT'S THE OLD ME!
FROM THIS MOMENT FORWARD, I'LL NEVER GET FREAKED OUT AND DO DUMB STUFF EVER AGAIN!!
I'LL QUIT BEING SCARED OF LADIES, AND DATES, AND EVERYTHING!!
I'LL ACT LIKE AN ADULT!
AND I'LL HAVE REALLY HANDSOME HAIR!
I'LL BE A COMPLETELY NEW, COOL GUY, AND NOT A NERVOUS WEIRDO!!
S-SO GO ON! CUT IT OFF!!
THAT SOUNDS A LITTLE DRASTIC, SO... MAYBE I SHOULD LEAVE IT ALONE.
TAISEI.

Y-YOU DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT, RIGHT?
GRAB
H-
JIRO SAKANA, HOW DARE YOU ACCUSE ME OF BEING ANYTHING BUT 1000% SUPPORTIVE!!
UG
P-PLEASE PUT THE SCISSORS DOWN BEFORE YOU DO THIS...
I THINK YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO, DUDE!!
WANTING TO CHANGE AND GROW IS GREAT!
BUT YOU NEED TO BE A LITTLE NICER TO YOURSELF!
NOTHING HAPPENS JUST LIKE THAT! ESPECIALLY BIG LIFE CHANGES!
JEEZE!
TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME!
I MEAN, C'MON, YOU CAN'T PUT YOUR END OF YEAR EARNINGS BEFORE THE SALES PLAN!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
PFT
YOU HAD ME AND THEN YOU LOST ME AGAIN.

OKAY, OKAY, ALL GOOFS ASIDE...
YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND AND I LOVE YOU AND YOUR LITTLE PONYTAIL VERY MUCH.
... BUT IF YOU THINK THIS IS A GOOD FIRST STEP ON YOUR EXCITING NEW JOURNEY OF FUN DATES AND CHILL VIBES...
I'LL DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE.
I DO THINK THIS IS A GOOD STEP. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
SURE! YOU READY?
I'M READY!!
GRAB
YOU SURE YOU'RE READY?
I'M READY!
YOU SURE?
DO IT.

SNAP
farewell

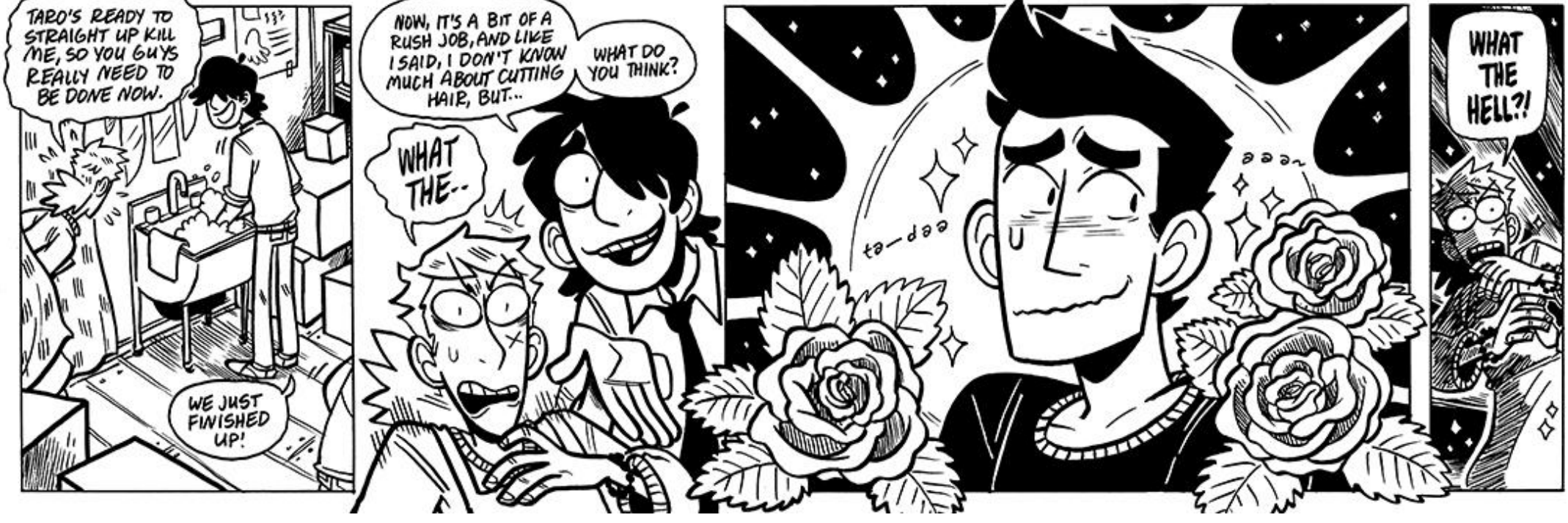


CHAPTER:XXII

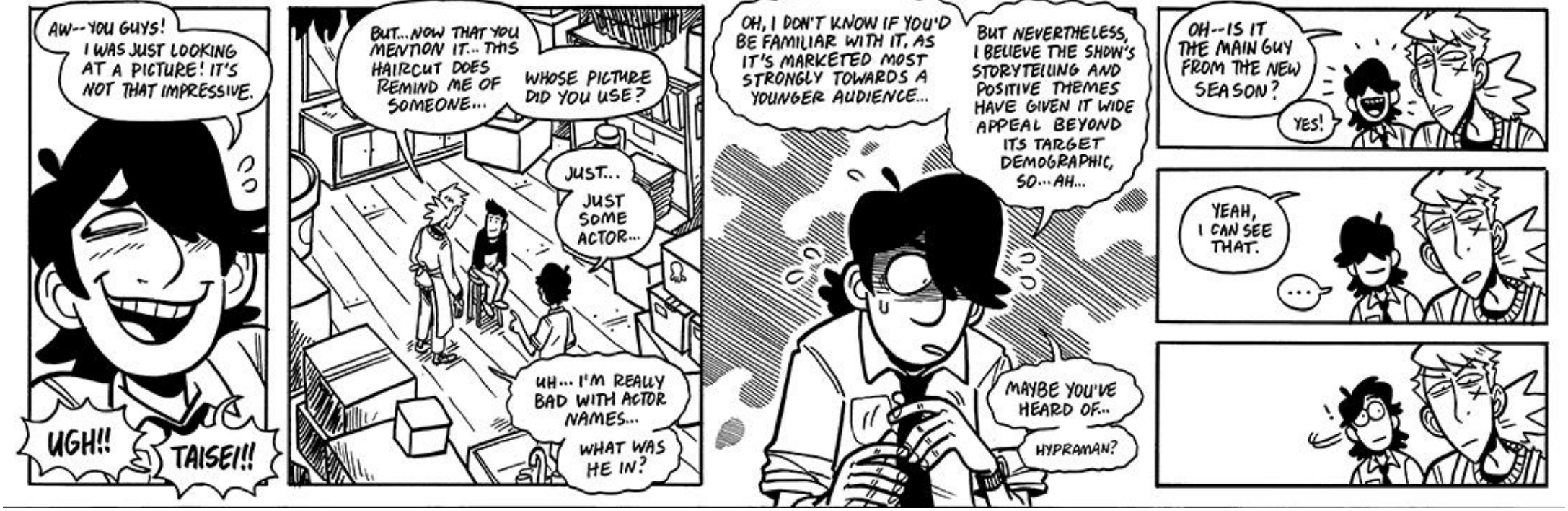
SO, YOU SEE...
WHEN I PICKED IT UP, THE HEAD... JUST...
POPPED RIGHT OFF!
LIKE SOMEONE HAD CUT IT, SQUISHED IT BACK TOGETHER, AND PUT IT BACK IN THE COOLER.
WOW, HAHA! THEY JUST DON'T MAKE THOSE THINGS LIKE THEY USED TO, HUH?
IT'S A FISH.
WELL, LOOK AROUND YOU, BUDDY! THIS IS A FISH MARKET! HEADS ROLL ALL THE TIME, IT'S PART OF THE EXPERIENCE!
HONESTLY, THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL CUT AND WHOEVER MADE IT SHOULD DEFINITELY BE WORKING AS A BUTCHER AND NOT A CASHIER--
DON'T YOU AGREE?
FISH HEADS
SO... IT'S SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE THIS?
YES.

GOODBYE! THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS DISCOUNT!
OF COURSE, SIR!
SALE!
PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE CUTTING-EDGE BUTCHERY TECHNIQUES HERE AT SAKANA'S!
COME AGAIN SOON!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, SAKANA.
I'M JUST TRYING TO DO MY JOB!!
MY REAL JOB!
I'VE BEEN AT THIS REGISTER FOR MOST OF THE DAY. BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN A SINGLE FISH FILLET COME OUTTA THE BACK!!
AND IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON...
I'M GONNA HAVE TO GO BACK THERE AND SEE FOR MYSELF.

WELL, YOU--
YOU--UH--
TH-THAT--
WAVE
WAVE
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT, BECAUSE I'M GOING BACK THERE TO PUT AN END TO THIS LITTLE EXPERIMENT RIGHT THIS MINUTE!!
HONESTLY, THIS IS THE LAST TIME I TRY TO TEACH A SAKANA ANY NEW SKILLS.
JIRO A BUTCHER?
YOU BEING DIRECTLY EXPOSED TO CUSTOMERS?
WHAT WAS I THINKING?
WE'VE ALL DONE A TERRIBLE JOB TODAY.
BUT IN MY DEFENSE, I'VE BEEN AWAKE SINCE 3AM YESTERDAY.
SO CUT ME SOME [redacted] SLACK.


TARO'S READY TO STRAIGHT UP KILL ME, SO YOU GUYS REALLY NEED TO BE DONE NOW.
WE JUST FINISHED UP!
NOW, IT'S A BIT OF A RUSH JOB, AND LIKE I SAID, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT CUTTING HAIR, BUT...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHAT THE--
WHAT THE HELL?!

WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS?!
OH...DOES IT LOOK THAT BAD? DID I MAKE THINGS WORSE?
NO! IT'S--IT'S PERFECT!!
THIS IS THE BEST JIRO'S HEAD HAS EVER LOOKED!!
YOU SAID YOU'VE NEVER CUT HAIR BEFORE!
I HAVEN'T!
THEN--THEN HOW DO YOU JUST--
DO IT PERFECT THE FIRST TIME?!
HE DOES THIS ALL THE TIME!!
HE'S JUST GOOD AT STUFF! IT'S RIDICULOUS!!
WHAT IS THAT LIKE?!

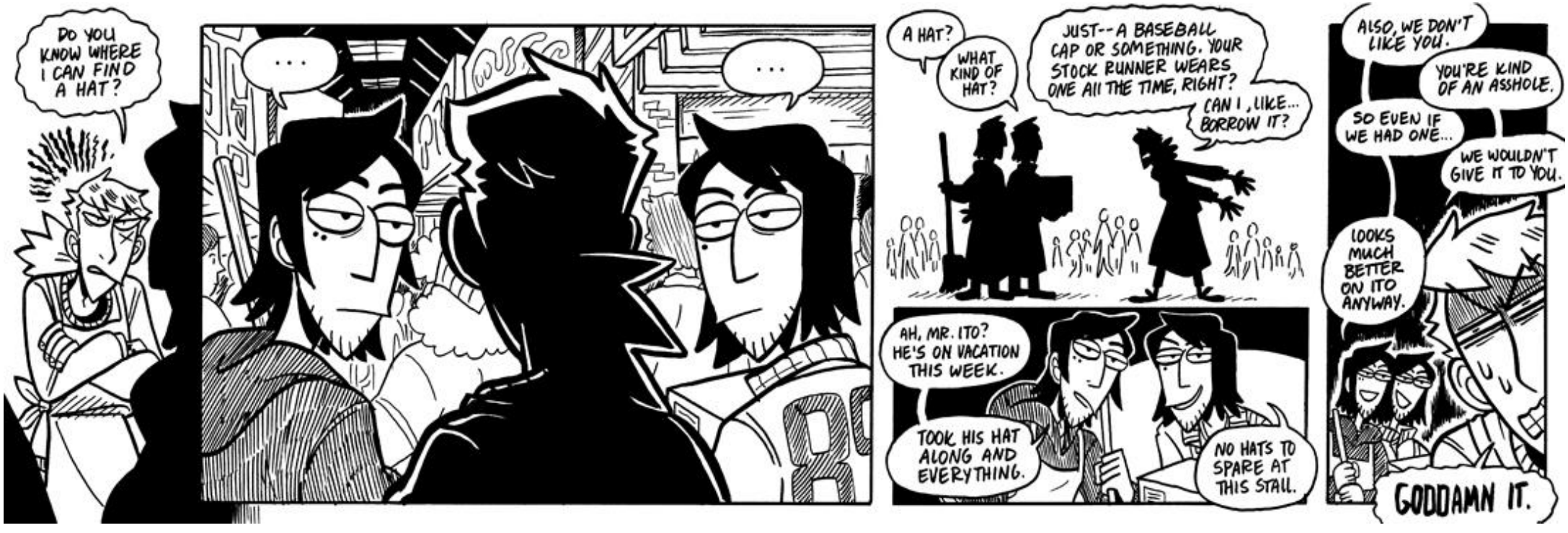

AW--YOU GUYS! I WAS JUST LOOKING AT A PICTURE! IT'S NOT THAT IMPRESSIVE.
UGH!!
TAISEI!!
BUT...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... THIS HAIRCUT DOES REMIND ME OF SOMEONE...
WHOSE PICTURE DID YOU USE?
JUST... JUST SOME ACTOR...
UH... I'M REALLY BAD WITH ACTOR NAMES...
WHAT WAS HE IN?
OH, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'D BE FAMILIAR WITH IT, AS IT'S MARKETED MOST STRONGLY TOWARDS A YOUNGER AUDIENCE...
BUT NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE THE SHOW'S STORYTELLING AND POSITIVE THEMES HAVE GIVEN IT WIDE APPEAL BEYOND ITS TARGET DEMOGRAPHIC, SO... AH...
MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF...
HYPRAMAN?
OH--IS IT THE MAIN GUY FROM THE NEW SEASON?
YES!
YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT.
...

um...
DO YOU...
BUT-- I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHO I'M SEEING HERE...
OH-- U-UM-- Y-YOU THINK HE LOOKS LIKE SOME-ONE ELSE?
YEAH I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT...
...WHAT?
HMMM...
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
OH FU

WH--WHAT'S WITH THOSE FACES?!
WHY ARE YOU YELLING?!
OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM...
OH MY GOD.
J-JUST LIKE WHO?! THE HYPRAMAN ACTOR?!
WHAT'S TARO GONNA SAY?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
NOTHING.
NOTHING IS WRONG.
EVERY THING.
IS.
FINE.

YOU LOOK FANTASTIC!
YOU DID A GREAT JOB!!
BUT TARO--?
HE'S--HE'S BEEN TOO DISTRACTED TODAY AND, UH--
JIRO SUDDENLY HAVING ...NEW HAIR WOULD JUST BE EVEN MORE DISTRACTING, SO...
WE'LL DEAL WITH IT LATER!!
NOW, I'M GONNA GO OUT FRONT AND FIND YOU A NEW HAT!!
JUST GIMME FIVE MORE MINUTES AND THIS WHOLE ORDEAL WILL BE OVER.
FW-
ISH
MOW?
WAS THAT A CAT?

THERE YOU ARE! WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU STAY RIGHT THERE.
HEY! HEY, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!!


DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND A HAT?
...
...
A HAT?
WHAT KIND OF HAT?
JUST--A BASEBALL CAP OR SOMETHING. YOUR STOCK RUNNER WEARS ONE All THE TIME, RIGHT?
CAN I, LIKE... BORROW IT?
AH, MR. ITO? HE'S ON VACATION THIS WEEK.
TOOK HIS HAT ALONG AND EVERYTHING.
NO HATS TO SPARE AT THIS STALL.
ALSO, WE DON'T LIKE YOU.
YOU'RE KIND OF AN ASSHOLE.
SO EVEN IF WE HAD ONE...
WE WOULDN'T GIVE IT TO YOU.
LOOKS MUCH BETTER ON ITO ANYWAY.
GODDAMN IT.

LISTEN, I REALLY NEED HELP RIGHT NOW!
YOU WANNA DO TANAKA A FAVOR?
CAN'T SAY I DO.
WH-WHAT ABOUT THAT TIME LAST YEAR WHEN I GOT THAT SUPPLIER KICKED OUT OF THE MARKET FOR HASSLING YOUR BOSS?
YOU ONLY CALLED SECURITY 'CUZ THEY WERE YELLING IN FRONT OF YOUR STALL.
PLUS, HAVE YOU SEEN THE BOSS?
YOU DID THAT GUY A FAVOR.
OKAY, OKAY, I GET IT! I'VE BEEN AN ASSHOLE!
BUT THIS ISN'T A FAVOR FOR ME!
IT'S FOR JIRO!
JIRO?
JIRO SAKANA?
YEAH.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SOONER!
WE LOVE JIRO!!
OF COURSE WE'LL HELP!

WAIT... REALLY?
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN VERY NICE TO US.
DEFINITELY NOT AN ASSHOLE.
VERY INSPIRING.
YEAH!
JIRO... INSPIRING?
HE HAS ENOUGH RAW NERVOUS ENERGY TO POWER THE WHOLE FISH MARKET!
BUT HE STILL TRIES HIS BEST EVERY DAY!
WE'VE BEEN QUIETLY CHEERING HIM ON FOR A LONG TIME.
... I DON'T GET IT.
WELL... I GUESS SEEING HIM FIGHT THROUGH HIS INSECURITIES EVERY DAY MAKES US FEEL LIKE WE DON'T HAVE TO SUCCUMB TO OUR OWN DEEP EXISTENTIAL ANXIETIES AND BECOME JADED AND CYNICAL IN THE PROCESS.
KOFF
BUT FOR NOW WE'RE STILL PRETTY JADED AND CYNICAL.
IT'S A WORK IN PROGRESS.

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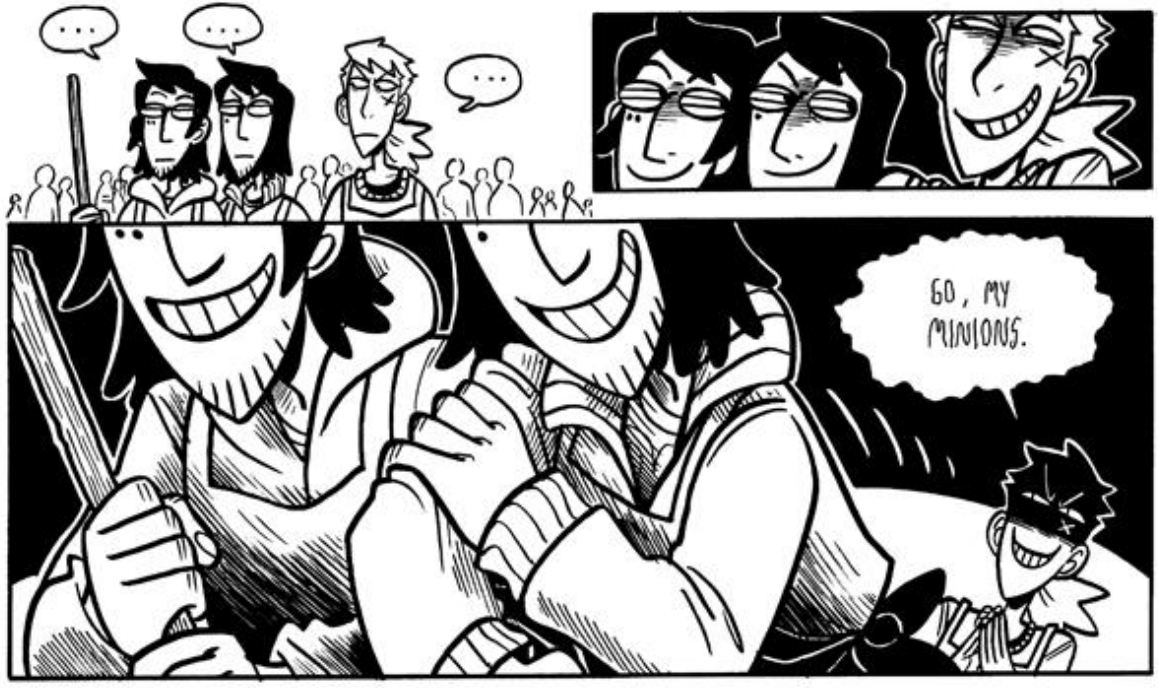
SO, IT'S SETTLED. WE'LL HELP YOU HELP JIRO!
AS LONG AS YOU TELL HIM IT WAS US.
YES, MAKE SURE TO TELL HIM.
AND THEN HE'LL DITCH TARO AND HANG OUT WITH US!
OKAY, BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE A HAT YOU'RE USELESS TO ME, SO SCRAM.
WOW.
ASSHOLE.
C'MON, TANAKA!
GIVE US A CHANCE.
I'VE WASTED ALL DAMN DAY ON THIS, SO UNLESS YOU FIND A HAT IN THE NEXT 30 SECONDS--
HEY!! IF IT ISN'T MISTER TOUGH GUY AND THE TWO-HEADED SNAKE!
I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOME KINDA MARKET RULE AGAINST TOO MANY BAD VIBES IN ONE PLACE!
CHUP
CHUP
CHUP
FISH '99 CAMP
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
...



5

MINUTES LATER

THIS IS PERFECT! WHERE'D YOU FIND IT?
THE TWINS GAVE IT TO ME.
Splat
MICHIO AND KENTO?
THAT'S SO NICE OF THEM!
WHEN DO THEY NEED IT BACK?
AHAH!! NEVER!
IT'S A GIFT!
AND THEY ALSO SAID
UH-
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR DATE.
THEY'RE ROOTING FOR YOU.
AND A BUNCH OF OTHER WEIRD STUFF LIKE THAT.
Hu
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS NOW.
LET'S GET BACK TO WO--
OH...
WHERE'S TAISEI?

AW, HE JUST LEFT! HE HAD TO GET BACK TO WORK SINCE HIS LUNCH BREAK WAS OVER.
HE LEFT?
YEAH... I'M SORRY YOU COULDN'T SAY GOODBYE...
I KNOW YOU PROBABLY WANTED TO TALK TO HIM SOME MORE...
B-BUT HE GOT TO MEET HIME AT LEAST!
...
WHAT?
YEAH! I FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T MIND, SINCE SHE'S BEEN COOPED UP ALL DAY!
mow
ow wow!
HE JUST HELD HER FOR A BIT!
AND HE WAS EXTRA GENTLE AND...
uh...
ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?
i can't believe i missed that.

SAKANA

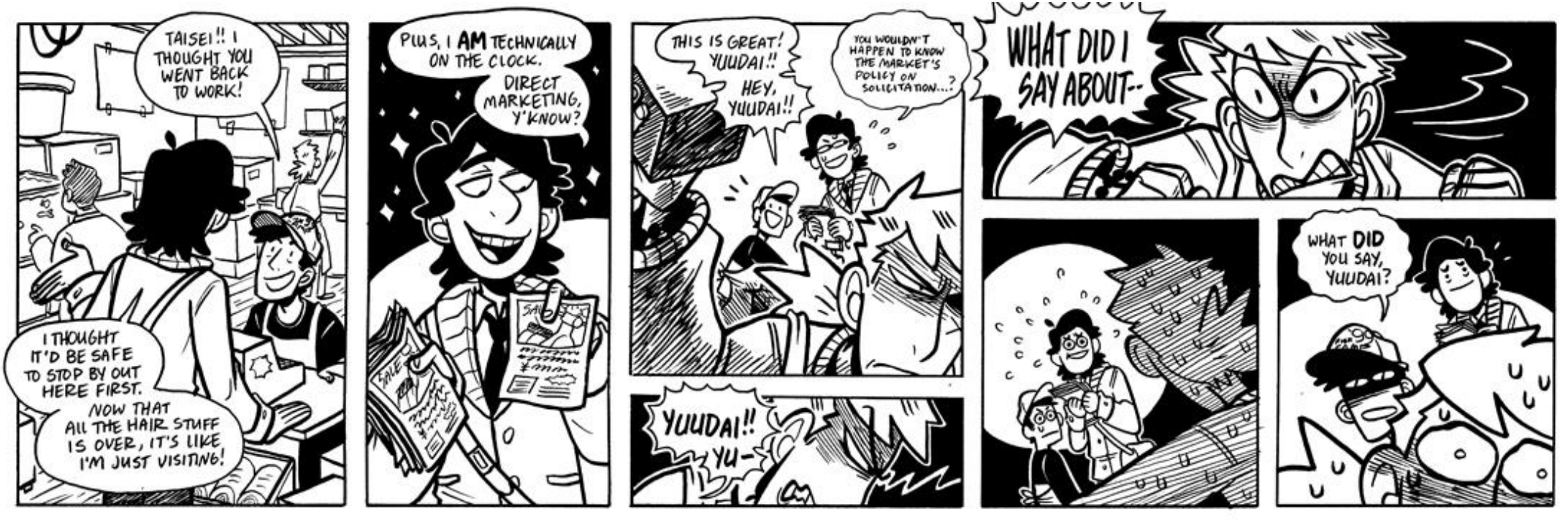
HARD ENAMEL PINS

KICKSTARTER

RUNNING: AUG. 30TH - SEP. 23RD

HOLY HELL, IT FEELS AMAZING TO BE BACK WHERE I BELONG...
YOU WERE ONLY OUT FRONT FOR TWO HOURS.
IT FELT LIKE AN ETERNITY.
BUT JIRO... I'M NOTICING A LACK OF BUTCHERED FISH BACK HERE!
IT'S OKAY TO BE NERVOUS ABOUT TAKING THE LIFE OF A LIVING THING!
AS YOUR BIG BRO, I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU GET PAST THAT AND BECOME A HIGHLY EFFICIENT KILLING MA--
HEY-UH-TH-THAT'S OKAY!
I'LL JUST STICK TO SALES.
BUT-
HE SUCKS AS A BUTCHER.
JUST LIKE YOU SUCK OUT FRONT.
END OF STORY.
NOW BOTH OF YOU GET BACK TO WORK
AND DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD TO ME FOR THE REST OF THE DAY
SNAP
I'M SO GLAD THINGS ARE BACK TO NORMAL!

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS.
SALE!!
TAK
TAK
SALE!!
SALE!!
EXCUSE ME, YOUNG MAN.
SALE!!
I'M LOOKING FOR A REPUTABLE FISH STALL STAFFED ENTIRELY BY COOL DUDES...
COULD YOU HELP ME FIND SUCH A PLACE?


TAISEI!! I THOUGHT YOU WENT BACK TO WORK!
I THOUGHT IT'D BE SAFE TO STOP BY OUT HERE FIRST.
NOW THAT ALL THE HAIR STUFF IS OVER, IT'S LIKE I'M JUST VISITING!
PLUS, I AM TECHNICALLY ON THE CLOCK.
DIRECT MARKETING, Y'KNOW?
SALE
THIS IS GREAT! YUUDAI!!
HEY, YUUDAI!!
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW THE MARKET'S POLICY ON SOLICITATION...?
YUUDAI!! YU-
WHAT DID I SAY ABOUT--
WHAT DID YOU SAY, YUUDAI?

I-I'M SORRY, I KNOW YOU GUYS ARE TRYING TO GET BACK TO WORK--
IT'S RUDE OF ME TO KEEP PESTERING YOU.
THIS IS YOUR WORK-PLACE, NOT A SOCIAL CLUB.
I SHOULD HEAD BACK TO THE OFFICE...
NO, I--I WASN'T YELLING AT YOU!!
TAISEI, IT'S OK!!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE!
S-STOP, I-- I--I SHOULDN'T HAVE RAISED MY VOICE...
I-I'M JUST... UH...
I'M...
STRESSED?
STRESSED.
IT WAS AN EXTREMELY STRESSFUL DAY.
STILL, I DON'T WANNA ADD ANY MORE STRESS.
I JUST WANTED TO SAY GOOD LUCK ON YOUR DATE TONIGHT, JIRO.
YOU MIGHT LEAVE BEFORE I GET HOME FROM WORK, SO THIS COULD BE MY ONLY CHANCE!
fwip
fwip
fwip
CUZ I CAN'T BE THERE WITH YOU TONIGHT...
TAISEI!! NO!! No!

TAISEI!
WAIT!

I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK ANYBODY'S MAD AT YOU, OKAY?
I'D LOVE FOR YOU TO BE THERE, I JUST-- IT JUST DIDN'T WORK OUT THAT WAY THIS TIME.
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!

A-ARE YOU SURE?
'CUZ I KNOW I CAN GET A LITTLE ROWDY WHEN I DRINK, AND--
NO! WHAT? NO, THAT'S NOT IT, TAI!

I JUST HOPE I WASN'T TOO EMBARRASSING ON THE LAST DATE...
THAT'S REALLY NOT THE REASON, TAISEI.
BUT--
RRRRGH.

IT WAS ME, ALRIGHT?!
I'M THE REASON HE DIDN'T INVITE YOU!!

...
UH.
WAIT, SHIT, THAT CAME OUT WRONG.

BECAUSE OF SATURDAY NIGHT?
N-NO?
WELL--YES, BUT.
UH...
I MEAN... MORE LIKE SUNDAY MORNING?
I ACTED LIKE AN ASSHOLE, LEAVING IN A HUFF LIKE THAT.
AND I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR IT, SO...
SO, I ASKED JIRO IF...
I MEAN...
I WANTED TO ASK YOU IF...

IF...
IF YOU WANTED...
TO, UH...
LIKE...
SHFF
H...HANG OUT?
WITH ME?
T-TONIGHT?

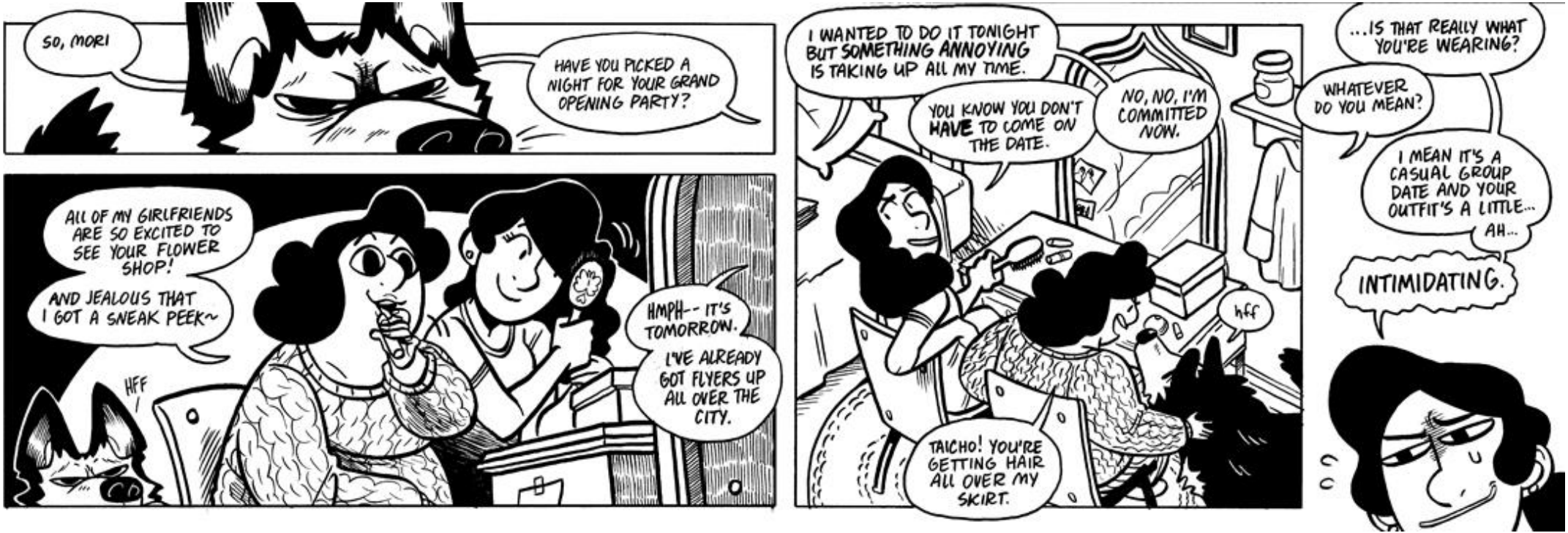
WHOA.
REALLY?
REALLY?!
TONIGHT?
YOU WANT TO HANG OUT WITH ME?
YUH-YEAH! UH, IF THAT SOUNDS GOOD?
N-NOTHING FORMAL, JUST...HANG...ING?
OH MY GOSH!!
SO...
ARE YOU UP FOR THAT?
I--
I CAN'T.

WELL.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
OH, WAIT, WAIT! NOW MY WORDS ARE COMING OUT WRONG!!
I DO WANT TO HANG OUT WITH YOU!! I'D LOVE TO DO THAT!!!
IT'S JUST THAT MY OLDER BROTHER AND HIS FAMILY ARE IN TOWN TONIGHT, AND I ALREADY PROMISED THEM WE'D DO DINNER!
IT'S JUST A SCHEDULING CONFLICT! I'M SORRY!
WAIT A SECOND--
ALL THAT EMOTION OVER MISSING THE DATE AND YOU COULDN'T EVEN GO IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
GENKEI'S MY BROTHER FOREVER, BUT SPYING ON YOUR SECOND DATE IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!!

ANYWAYS, AH -- I DON'T WANT TO MESS UP YOUR WHOLE NIGHT IF HANGING OUT WAS SOMETHING YOU PLANNED FOR...
BUT, IF YOU'RE FREE A LITTLE EARLIER IN THE EVENING, I HAVE SOME TIME TO KILL BETWEEN WORK AND DINNER!
WE COULD MEET UP THEN!
THAT IS, IF YOU'RE STILL INTERESTED IN MEETING UP?
INTERESTED
MEETING
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT HAND GESTURE...
INTEREST MEETING...
Y-YES!! I AM!!
um...m-maybe we could get uh... coffee?
YEAH! THAT SOUNDS AWESOME!
GEHEHEHE- I KNOW THE PERFECT PLACE!
HERE, LET ME WRITE IT DOWN FOR...

SEE YOU TONIGHT, TANAKA!
GOOD LUCK, JIRO!! YOU'LL DO GREAT!
SEE YOU...
BYE TAISEI!
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE DATE TOMORROW!
...
...
JIRO.
DO YOU THINK WE'LL BOTH SURVIVE TONIGHT?
I HAVE NO CLUE.
SALE!

CHAPTER:XXIII

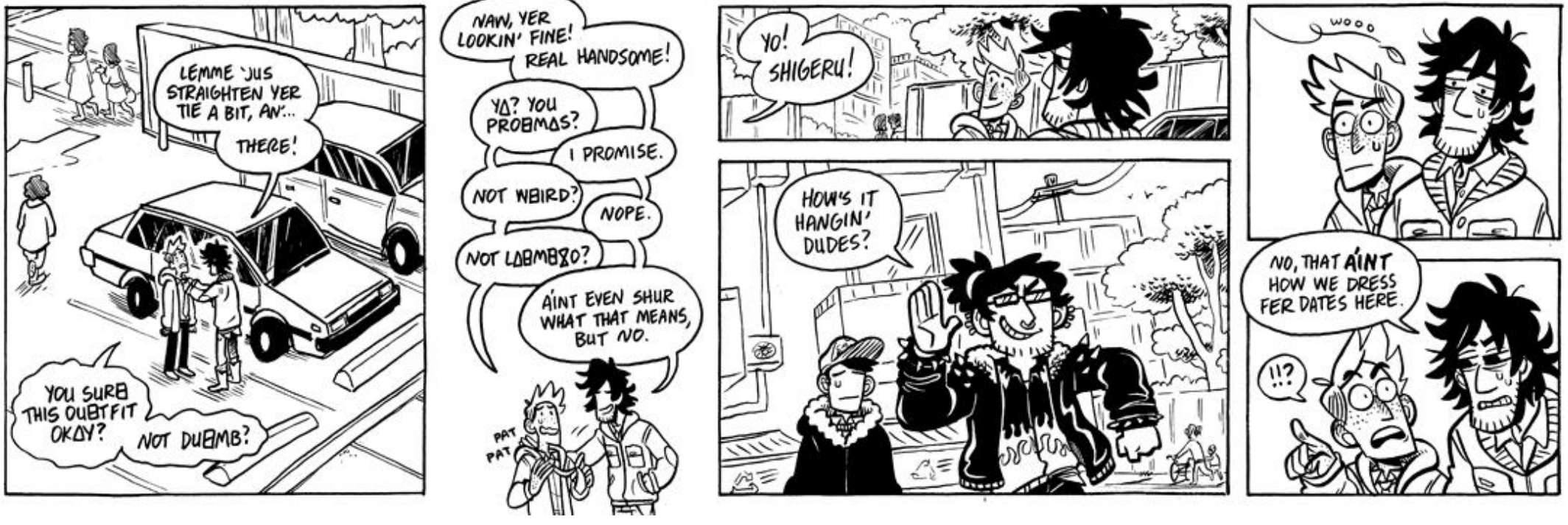

SO, MORI
HAVE YOU PICKED A NIGHT FOR YOUR GRAND OPENING PARTY?
ALL OF MY GIRLFRIENDS ARE SO EXCITED TO SEE YOUR FLOWER SHOP!
AND JEALOUS THAT I GOT A SNEAK PEEK~
HFF
HMPH-- IT'S TOMORROW.
I'VE ALREADY GOT FLYERS UP ALL OVER THE CITY.
I WANTED TO DO IT TONIGHT BUT SOMETHING ANNOYING IS TAKING UP ALL MY TIME.
YOU KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME ON THE DATE.
NO, NO, I'M COMMITTED NOW.
hff
TAICHO! YOU'RE GETTING HAIR ALL OVER MY SKIRT.
...IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU'RE WEARING?
WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN IT'S A CASUAL GROUP DATE AND YOUR OUTFIT'S A LITTLE...
AH...
INTIMIDATING.

PLEASE, THIS IS MY CASUAL OUTFIT.
I'VE SEEN YOU IN PAJAMAS, SO I KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.
AND HONESTLY, IF YOUR LITTLE BOYFRIEND AND HIS WEIRDO PALS CAN'T HANDLE ME AT MY MOST CASUAL...
SNIF!
I'M JUST GONNA GET EVEN MORE INTIMIDATING FROM HERE ON OU--
TAICHO!! NO DOGS ON THE BED!!

IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU'RE WEARING?
IF THE LADIES CAN'T HANDLE ALL THIS RAW MASCULINE ENERGY, THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM.
IF THIS IS RAW IT NEEDS TO BE PUT ON ICE.
HA-HAH! FISH PUNS DON'T WORK OUTSIDE THE MARKET, JIRO!
WOW
OW
I'M WEARING ALL MY PIERCINGS TONIGHT! THIS IS PEAK TARO.
I KNOW YOU'RE PROBABLY TRYING TO FREAK OUT CHIE'S SISTER,
BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY JUST FREAKING ME OUT RIGHT NOW.

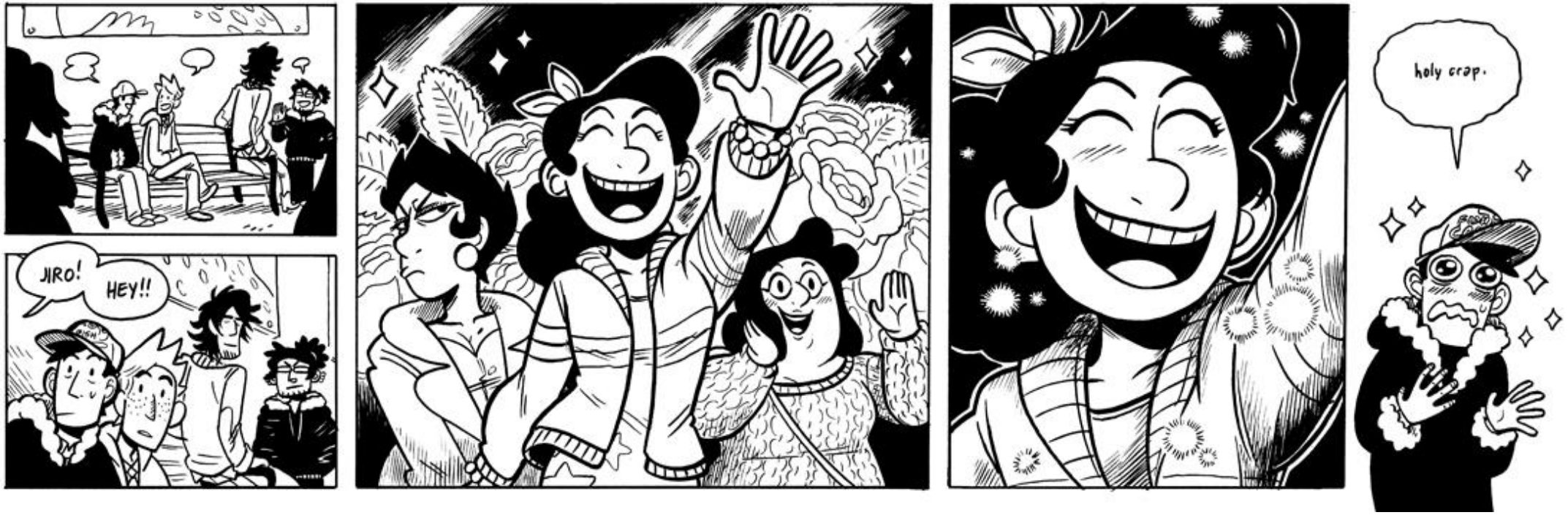
MAN, I WISH TAISEI WAS COMING WITH US. IF ANYONE CAN APPRECIATE A GOOD OUTFIT, IT'S HIM.
TARO, YOU KNOW TAISEI WOULD RATHER DIE THAN DISAPPOINT ANYONE.
AND I THINK THIS...
SITUATION...
WOULD LITERALLY KILL HIM.
WHAAAT?!
MOW
MOW OW
OW
SEE? HIME LIKES MY OUTFIT!
OW
MOW OW
AT LEAST SOMEONE IN THIS APARTMENT HAS GOOD TASTE.
CAN YOU BELIEVE YUUDAI ASKED US TO WATCH HER?
HE'S NEVER ASKED US FOR A FAVOR BEFORE!
YEAH, THAT MUST BE... UH...
A PRETTY BIG ROACH PILE HE'S DEALING WITH...
WOW
SAY...
HAS HE BEEN ACTING A LITTLE ...WEIRD LATELY?
WELL, TIME FOR MY DOOM— I MEAN DATE.

SO, HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT THE DATE?
SURPRISINGLY CALM?
I MEAN...
I SPENT ALL DAY AND LAST NIGHT FREAKING OUT ABOUT IT.
MAKING BAD DECISIONS.
AND NOW THAT IT'S FINALLY TIME,
I'M JUST...
FISH CAMP
READY.
READY TO BE TOTALLY DESTROYED.
JIRO, JIRO, JIRO, RELAX!
NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN TO YOU TONIGHT!
NOT WITH BIG BRO TARO WATCHING OVER YOU!
ALSO, I'VE GOT A BASEBALL BAT STASHED DOWN MY PANT L THAT
TAKE THE BAT OUT OF YOUR PANTS!!


LEMME 'JUS STRAIGHTEN YER TIE A BIT, AN'...
THERE!
YOU SURE THIS OUTFIT OKAY?
NOT DUMB?
NAW, YER LOOKIN' FINE! REAL HANDSOME!
YA? YOU PROMISE?
I PROMISE.
NOT WEIRD?
NOPE.
NOT LAME?
AIN'T EVEN SHUR WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT NO.
PAT PAT
YO! SHIGERU!
HOW'S IT HANGIN' DUDES?
WOOO
NO, THAT AIN'T HOW WE DRESS FER DATES HERE.
!!?

SH-SHIGERU! I, UH... DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU TOO...?
HAH, DON'T WORRY. I AIN'T INVOLVED IN ANY'A TARO'S SCHEMES.
I'M JUS' THE CHAUFFEUR.
YEAH... JUST THE CHAUFFEUR. RIGHT.
YOU BETTER NOT BE WINKIN' AT ME RIGHT NOW.
ERR'BODY BUCKLED IN? WHERE'RE WE HEADED, JIRO?
OH, I'LL CHECK.
CLICK
FISH CAMP
CHIE SENT ME THE ADDRESS... AH!
HERE.
OH! THAT'S...

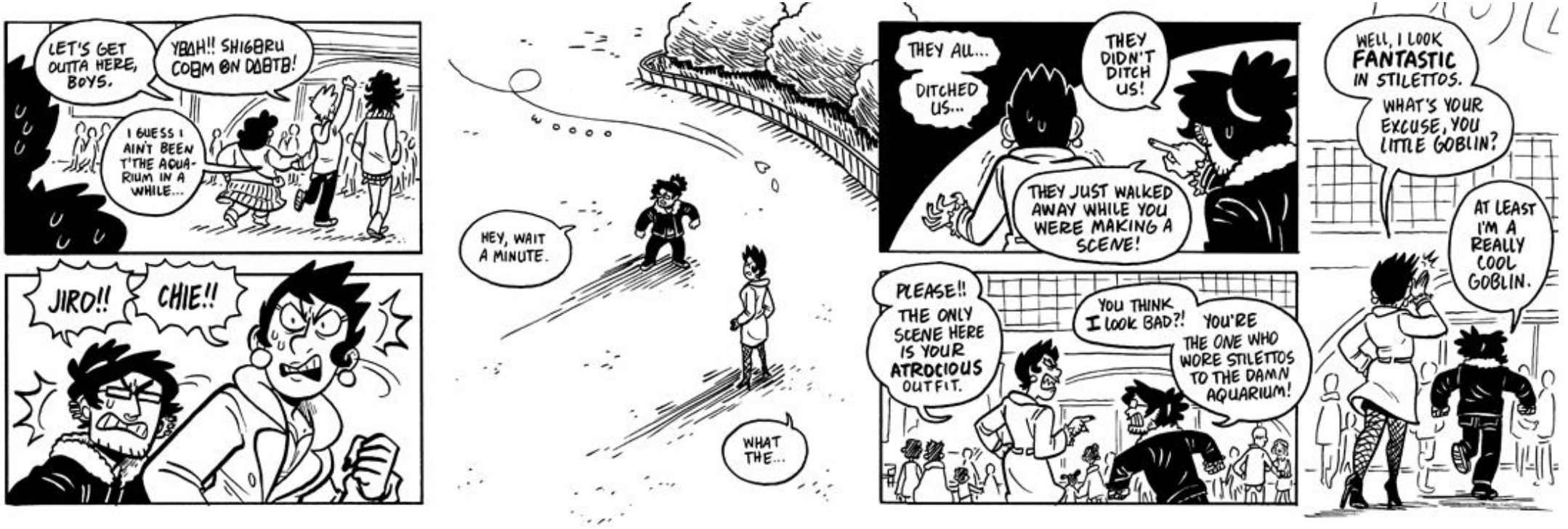
THE AQUARIUM?!
DOLPHIN AQUA PARK
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO--TO A NICE RESTAURANT OR SOMETHING?
OF COURSE THERE'S A RESTAURANT!
IT'S RIGHT OVER THERE!
NEXT TO THE GIFT SHOP!
FLIPPY'S DOLPHIN SAFE and GIFTS
FLIPPY'S
WHO THE HELL WANTS TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH FISH WHEN YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY THEM EVERY SINGLE DAY?!
YAAAAY!

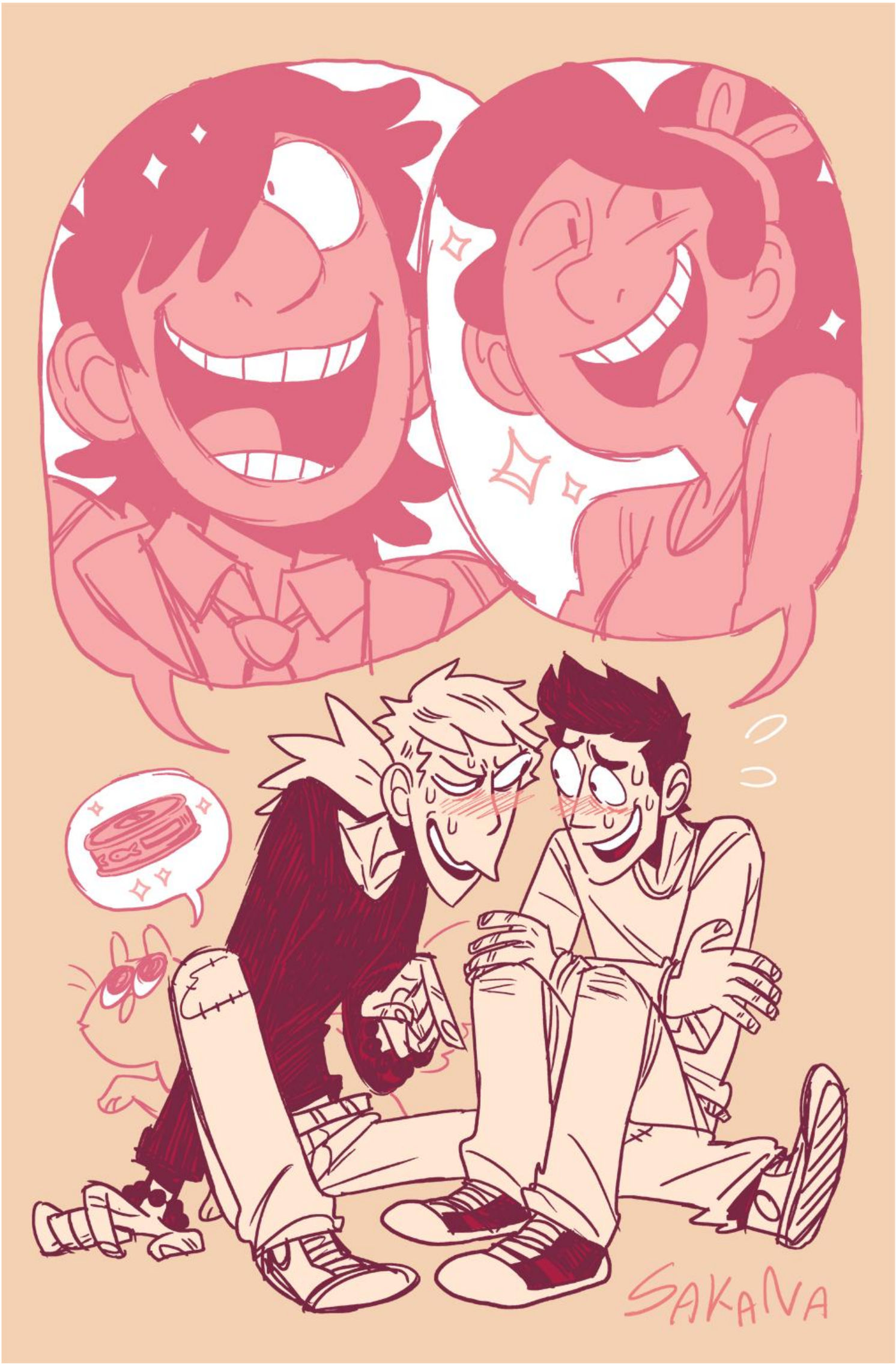

JIRO!
HEY!!
holy crap.

AAAA I-I DON'T KNOW IF I'M READY FOR THISss...
JARO!
JARO, IS NO SCARED, YOH?
REMEMBER... WELL BE FUN!!
COUENT ON EACH OETHER!
EVARTHANG GOING BE PAVAXE!!
J-JAN... THANK YOU...
BUT... I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...
HAHA, OKABY!
NAOW COEM!
WANT MEET MY DABT!

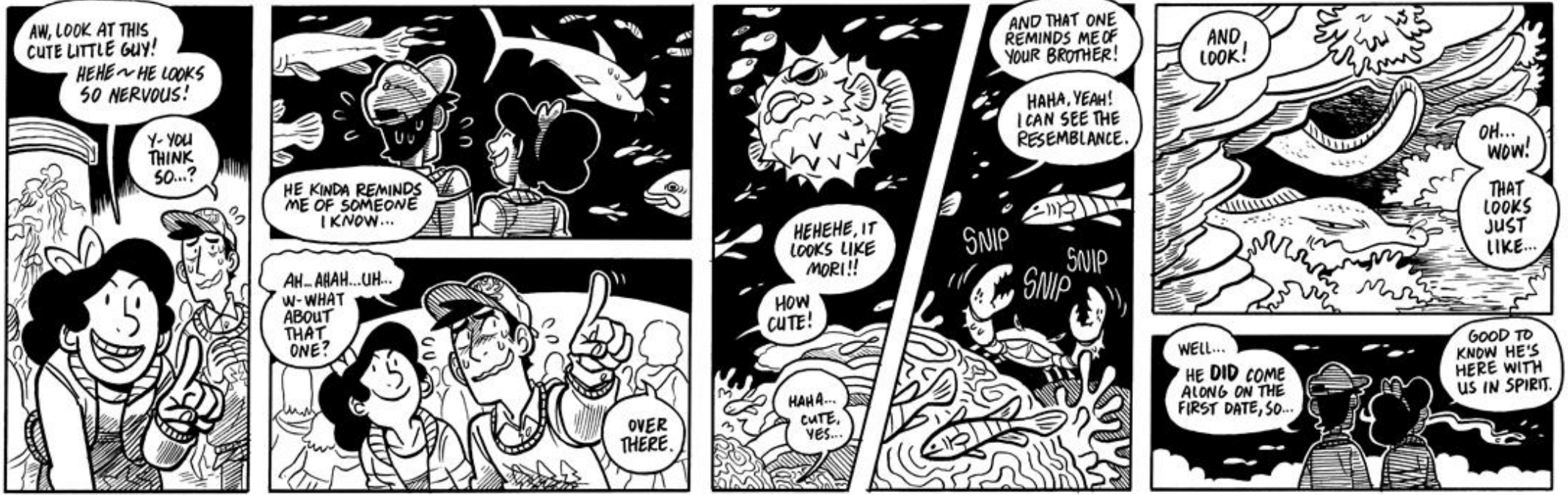
THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING! EVERYBODY LOOKS SO HANDSOME!
A-AH, UH... Y-YOU THINK? I-IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU... UH... TOO...
AND THIS COOL GUY MUST BE SANGO'S DATE!
OH, YES! THIS IS JAN! HE'S FROM GERMANY.
YO!
AND THIS IS SANGO IIJIMA! SHE ALSO WORKS AT THE MARKET!
IT'S YOU!!
FROM BEFORE!!
YOU!! FROM BEFORE!!
SHIGERU! IS LADDY FROM BEFORE!
OH, NICE T'SEE YA.
Y'ALL HAVE A FUN TIME TONIGHT!
HEY!! WAIT A SECOND!
WHO'S THIS GUY?!

YOU THINK YOU CAN PULL A FAST ONE ON ME, TWERP?!
TRYING TO OUTNUMBER US, HUH?!
N-NO, HE'S NOT...
MORI, STOP!!
DON'T BE SO MEAN! THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT WHY HE'S HERE!
??
THEN WHY...
I'SNT IT OBVIOUS?
CHIE BROUGHT TWO DATES FOR ME, BECAUSE SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND~!
uh, no i didn't.
i ain't here t'date nobody.
i'm jus' tryin' t' make shur everybody's gonna be okay.
A CHAPERONE?? HOW ROMANTICALLY OLD-FASHIONED!!
uh.
YEAH, HEHEH-- HE'S JUST A CHAPERONE!
RIGHT, SHIGERU?
WINK WINK
THAT'S NOT FAIR!!
YOU, CAN'T--
MAYBE THE TWO OF YOU SHOULD MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
??


LET'S GET OUTTA HERE, BOYS.
YEAH!! SHIGERU COME ON DEATH!
I GUESS I AIN'T BEEN T'THE AQUARIUM IN A WHILE...
JIRO!!
CHIE!!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE.
WHAT THE...
THEY ALL... DITCHED US...
THEY DIDN'T DITCH US!
THEY JUST WALKED AWAY WHILE YOU WERE MAKING A SCENE!
PLEASE!! THE ONLY SCENE HERE IS YOUR ATROCIOUS OUTFIT.
YOU THINK I LOOK BAD?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WORE STILETTOS TO THE DAMN AQUARIUM!
WELL, I LOOK FANTASTIC IN STILETTOS.
WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE, YOU LITTLE GOBLIN?
AT LEAST I'M A REALLY COOL GOBLIN.


SAKANA

WOW.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW EASY IT WAS TO GIVE MORI AND TARO THE SLIP!!
HAHA--I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A LOT HARDER!
JIRO?
JIRO?
WH
AHH?!


AW, LOOK AT THIS CUTE LITTLE GUY!
HEHE~ HE LOOKS SO NERVOUS!
Y-YOU THINK SO...?
HE KINDA REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE I KNOW...
AH... AHAH... UH... W-WHAT ABOUT THAT ONE?
OVER THERE.
HEHEHE, IT LOOKS LIKE MORI!!
HOW CUTE!
HAHA... CUTE, YES...
AND THAT ONE REMINDS ME OF YOUR BROTHER!
HAHA, YEAH! I CAN SEE THE RESEMBLANCE.
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
AND LOOK!
OH... WOW!
THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE...
WELL... HE DID COME ALONG ON THE FIRST DATE, SO...
GOOD TO KNOW HE'S HERE WITH US IN SPIRIT.

OH! AND THAT ONE REMINDS ME OF SANGO!
AND THAT ONE'S MY BOSS AT THE FISH MARKET!

AND THAT ONE LOOKS LIKE MY DOG TRAINING BOSS!
COOL!

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, JIRO?
uH-WOW!!
THESE FISH, HUH??
GOTTA GIVE 'EM A HAND!!
GOOD JOB FISH!!

NO, SERIOUSLY! YOU CAN TELL ME!
I-I WAS THINKING...
MY HANDS ARE REALLY SWEATY...
REALLY? THAT'S IT?
YEAH, AND... WE'RE ON A DATE AND...
I-IT MIGHT BE NICE TO HOLD UH... HANDS... BUT...
I-I DON'T WANNA GROSS YOU OUT...
HERE.
B--! BUT I JUST--
YOU THINK YOU'RE TOO GROSS?
JIRO, WE'RE BOTH UP TO OUR ARMPITS IN FISH GUTS ALL DAY EVERY DAY.
I THINK I CAN HANDLE A SWEATY PALM.
I FOUND IT BEHIND THE COOLER!
WOW
OH...
WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...

GRIP
O-OH... WAIT...
LEMME JUST...
TAKE YOUR TIME~
CLASP
AHAHA-- AH!!! WOW!!
WE CAN STOP NOW, UH-- I-I HOPE THAT WASN'T TOO WEIRD, UHHH--
TH-THANKS FOR GIVING IT A TRY!!
HAHA! AAAA!
IF YOU WANNA, UH.. GO WASH YOUR HANDS OR SOMETHING...
HAHA, JIRO, YOU'RE FINE!!
THAT WAS NICE!
AND IF YOU WANT TO TRY AGAIN LATER, FOR MORE THAN LIKE... 3 SECONDS, I'M TOTALLY UP FOR IT!
O-OK!

B-BUT... I GUESS THAT WAS MORE OF A HAND-SHAKE SO...
MAYBE THAT DIDN'T COUNT...
IT TOTALLY COUNTS!
YOU JUST NEED MORE PRACTICE!
Y-YEAH! I--

JIRO!!!
AGHHH!!!

HOW'S THE DATE GOIN'?

WHAT DO YOU WANT, TARO?
WOW! HOW CAN YOU BE SO COLD TO YOUR BIG BRO WHO LOVES YOU VERY MU--
TARO.

CHIE'S FRIEND THREATENED TO CALL SECURITY IF I KEPT FOLLOWING THEM AROUND...

IF YOU'RE HERE, MORI MUST BE SOMEWHERE NEARBY...
WH--NO. I'M NOT HERE WITH HER. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ON A DATE!
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?

UH... IT'S A BUSINESS TRIP.
IT'S AN AQUARIUM. YOU CAN'T EAT THE FISH.

CHIE!!!
THERE YOU ARE!!
YEAH, RIGHT ON CUE.

WHAT THE HELL?! ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?!
UGH, NO!! GET OVER YOURSELF, YOU LITTLE CREEP!!

CHIE, YOUR SISTER SCORED TICKETS TO THE SEALION SHOW!
ONLY TWO, I'M AFRAID! BUT A SPECTACLE LIKE THIS WOULD BE LOST ON THESE DIMWITS.

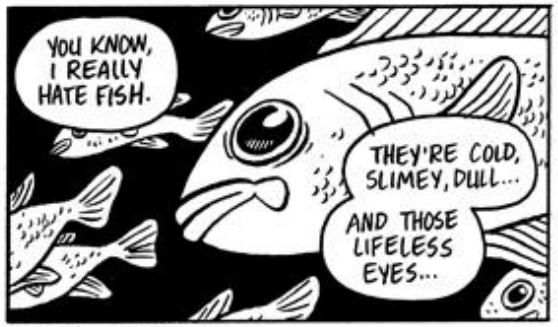
ARE YOU CALLING MY BROTHER A DIMWIT?!
I'M CALLING BOTH OF YOU DIMWITS!!
THANKS!

WHY DON'T YOU SAY THAT TO MY FACE?!
I AM SAYING IT TO YOUR FACE!!!

OR DO I HAVE TO GET RIGHT THE HELL UP CLOSE TO MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?!
IF YOU TAKE ONE MORE STEP I'M GONNA-

SHIT, WHERE'D THEY GO?!?!
THEY DITCHED US AGAIN!!!!

RRRRGH!!! AND SHE TOOK MY TICKETS!
THAT'S SO TYPICAL!!
ARE YOU CALLING YOUR SISTER A THIEF?!
I DON'T WANT ANY CRIMINALS HANGING AROUND MY LITTLE BROTHER!!
AND I DON'T WANT MY SISTER DATING SOME SNIVELING COWARD WHO CAN'T HANDLE HER.
BUT HE'LL CHICKEN OUT SOON ENOUGH. I'M JUST TRYING TO SAVE HER THE TROUBLE.
YO, YOU BETTER QUIT TALKIN' SHIT ABOUT JIRO. IT'S REALLY PISSIN' ME OFF HOW YOU KEEP FLAPPING YOUR JAW LIKE YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.
HE'S BEING REALLY BRAVE EVEN COMING ON THIS DATE! AND CHIE'S THE REASON HE'S SCARED OF GIRLS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
BUT ALSO THE REASON HE'S BEING BRAVE NOW... UH... THIS IS KIND OF A COMPLICATED SITUATION...
BOMP
...
WHAT AM I DOING HERE...?
HUH??
WHAT DO YOU—
WHAT AM I DOING WITH MY LIFE...
OH SHIT.


YOU KNOW, I REALLY HATE FISH.
THEY'RE COLD, SLIMEY, DULL...
AND THOSE LIFELESS EYES...

JUST LIKE MY EX-FIANCE...
O-OH?

I'D NEVER COME TO AN AQUARIUM ON MY OWN, SO... WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
AM I TRYING TO PROTECT MY SISTER FROM THE SAME SHITTY RELATIONSHIPS I ALWAYS FALL FOR...OR DO I ENVY HER?
DOES HER HAPPINESS MAKE ME REALIZE HOW STUPID I FEEL FOR BEING ANGRY ALL THE TIME?!?!

AND YOU'RE THE SAME AS ME, RIGHT?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
U-UH...

WELL...
I...

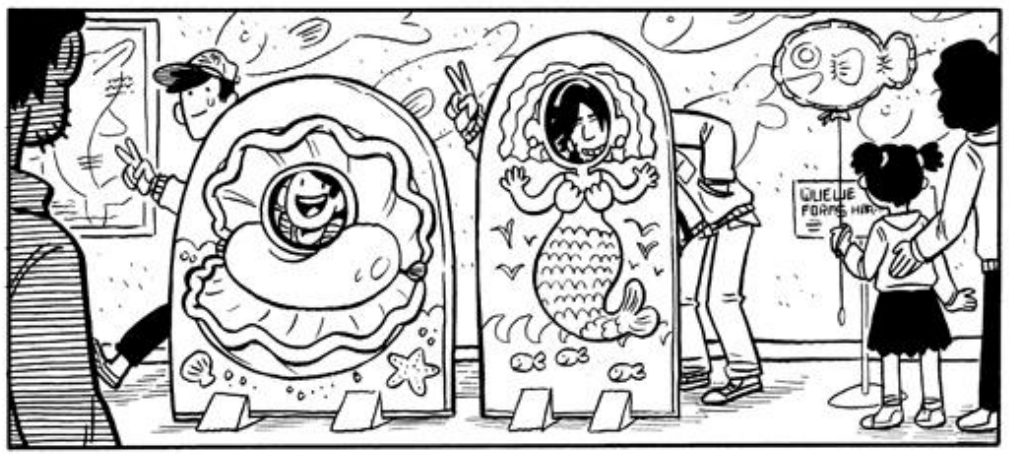
I BUTCHER FISH FOR A LIVING!!
SO...
I AGREE WITH YOU THERE!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!!

sigh
YEAH, ALRIGHT. I GET IT.
WHEN YOU'RE HURT AND ANGRY IT'S JUST...
JUST THE THOUGHT OF SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT FEELING THE SAME WAY IS...
I DUNNO. IT JUST PISSES YOU OFF EVEN MORE.
HMPH.
THIS PLACE IS GIVING ME THE CREEPS.
I'M GONNA WAIT IN THE PARKING LOT UNTIL THESE FOOLS ARE DONE FIIRTING OR WHATEVER.
YOU GOT LUCKY THIS TIME, FISH.
???
STOMP STOMP
STOMP STOMP

DID YOU JUST STEAL THOSE TICKETS?
SEASIDE THEATER
HEHEHE, JIRO! STEAL IS SO HARSH!
SEA LIONS
THINK OF IT MORE LIKE...
SWEET VENGEANCE FOR TRYING TO RUIN OUR FUN DATE.
W-WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
CHIE!! OVER HERE!
OH! IT'S SANGO AND THE GUYS! LET'S SIT WITH THEM!
FANCY SEEING YOU HERE!
HEY!
FINALLY GAVE TARO N' MORI TH' SLIP, HUH?
WE'VE BEEN TRYING ALL DAY.
UGH, DON'T EVEN TALK TO ME ABOUT THOSE TWO JERKS RIGHT NOW.
FISH CAMP
EVERYBODY GET IN HERE! IT'S PICTURE TIME!!

PHOTO SPOT!

JAPANESE TO GERMAN


QUEUE FORMS HERE

GIFT SHOP

GIFT SHOP
EXIT
SALE
whew
TAKIN' A BREAK?
N-NO! I'LL BE BACK INSIDE IN A MINUTE! I-I WAS JUST, UH...
HAHA, JIRO, Y'DON'T GOTTA JUSTIFY TAKIN' A BREAK!
IT'S BEEN A BUSY DAY!
AND FRANKLY, I AIN'T NEVER SEEN YA AROUND THIS MANY GALS AT ONCE WITHOUT YOU... WELL...
PUKING?
PASSING OUT?
HAVING AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS??

Y'AIN'T DONE NONE'A THAT TODAY, THOUGH... SO I'D SAY YER DOIN' PRETTY WELL FER Y'SELF.
I'M STILL SITTING OUT HERE WHILE EVERYBODY ELSE HAS FUN IN THERE...
FISH CAMP
sigh
IF Y'WANNA LEARN T'SWIM, Y'DON'T JUMP IN TH'DEEP END'A TH'POOL, RIGHT?
Y'GOTTA EASE INTO TH'WATER. SPLASH AROUND A LIL' BIT.
'AN THEN, WHEN YER FEELIN' A BIT MORE COMFORTABLE, Y'FINALLY START FLOATING--
BUT WHAT IF I DROWN.
THAT'S WHAT A LIFEGUARD'S FOR.
BUT THERE AREN'T ANY LIFEGUARDS ON A DATE!!
YAY
TH'LIFEGUARDS ARE YER FRIENDS, JIRO.
I'M TRYIN' T'KEEP TH'METAPHOR GOIN'.
I ALREADY KNOW HOW TO SWIM!!
THAT'S NOT... hrgh-

WHAT I'M TRYIN' T'SAY IS...
YER DOIN' A GOOD JOB T'DAY AN' Y' SHOULDN'T BE SO HARD ON YERSELF.
YOU N' JAN SPENT SO LONG FRETTIN' OVER THIS HERE DATE, AN' LOOK...
YER BOTH HAVIN' A GOOD TIME.
NUTHIN'S ON FIRE AN' NOBODY HAD T'GO TO TH' HOSPITAL.
WHICH IS HONESTLY SHOCKING T'ME.
...
BUT SOMETIMES TH'WORST POSSIBLE THING THAT COULD HAPPEN INNA SITUATION JUST DOESN'T HAPPEN.
AN' THINGS TURN OUT FINE.
SO TRY NOT T'SWEAT TH' SMALL STUFF, AN' JUST ENJOY IT WHEN YA CAN.
THANKS, SHIGERU THAT MEANS A LOT.
WELL, I AIN'T SHUR WHERE TARD'S GONE OFF TO, SO...
I'M JUST TRYIN' T'FILL IN WITH TH' BROTHERLY ADVICE.
TARD WOULD NEVER SUGGEST ANYTHING THIS REASONABLE.
I KNOW, WE DON'T GOTTA TELL 'IM.

I'M HEADED BACK IN. C'MON THROUGH WHEN YER READY.
I'M SHUR NOBODY'D MIND WAITIN' A LIL' LONGER.
LOTS'A HATS T'TRY ON IN THERE, HAHA.
THANKS, MAN.
HMM.
I WONDER HOW YUUDAI'S DOING...
WELL...
IF I CAN HANG OUT WITH SOMEBODY I LIKE AND NOT TOTALLY SCREW IT UP...
CRABS
GIFT SHOP
HE'S PROBABLY DOING FINE!

CHAPTER:XXIV

BATH
PUBLIC
UGH.
RIPPED
THIS
REMINDS HIM OF ARATA TOO MUCH.
COVERED IN CAT HAIR.
ARE THESE REALLY THE ONLY SHIRTS I GRABBED...
MOW!
THIS IS OFF TO A GREAT START.

OKAY, I LOOK LIKE A FOOL AND I'VE BEEN AWAKE FOR 48 HOURS.
STYLISH!
BUT THANKFULLY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE ANY WORSE OF AN IMPRESSION THAN I ALREADY HAVE...
SO, MY BEST BET IS TO KEEP EXPECTATIONS SO LOW THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO GO BUT UP.
AND I CAN'T BE AN ASSHOLE. JIRO SAID THAT'S LITERALLY THE ONLY THING I CAN'T DO.
EASY.
NO PRESSURE.
IT'S NOT EVEN A DATE. IT'S AN INTEREST MEETING.
JUST TWO INTERESTING GUYS MEETING UP AFTER WORK.
ONE, A HANDSOME, KIND, SUCCESSFUL SALESMAN WITH LEGS FOR DAYS...
THE OTHER, A WALKING HUMAN DISASTER WHO SMELLS LIKE FISH.
NO PRESSURE.
HRRgh-
THIS IS ALL JIRO'S FAULT.

THAT COFFEE PLACE SHOULD BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...
WITH ANY LUCK, I'LL BE EARLY ENOUGH SO--
TANAKA!! HEY!!!
HEY!!
WOW! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BOTH SUPER EARLY!!
GEHEHEHE!
HOW ARE YO--
FLEE!!
TANAKA?
HHHHEY, W-WHAT'S UP?

AW! YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR MY COFFEE!
FINE COFFEE
N-NO, I INSIST.
I'M THE ONE WHO INVITED YOU OUT, AND... I MADE A BAD IMPRESSION BEFORE...
AND... I'M HERE TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY BEHAVIOR, SO... IT'S ONLY RIGHT.
D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST HERE TO HANG OUT!
W-WELL... HERE.
THANKS, DUDE!
I'LL GO FIND US A SEAT!
O-OK...
YOUR TOTAL IS ¥1750, SIR.
...
EXCUSE ME??
THAT'S NOT THE TOTAL.
THAT'S NOT WHAT TWO COFFEES COST.
THEY DO HERE!
THIS BETTER BE THE BEST COFFEE I'VE EVER HAD IN MY LIFE.

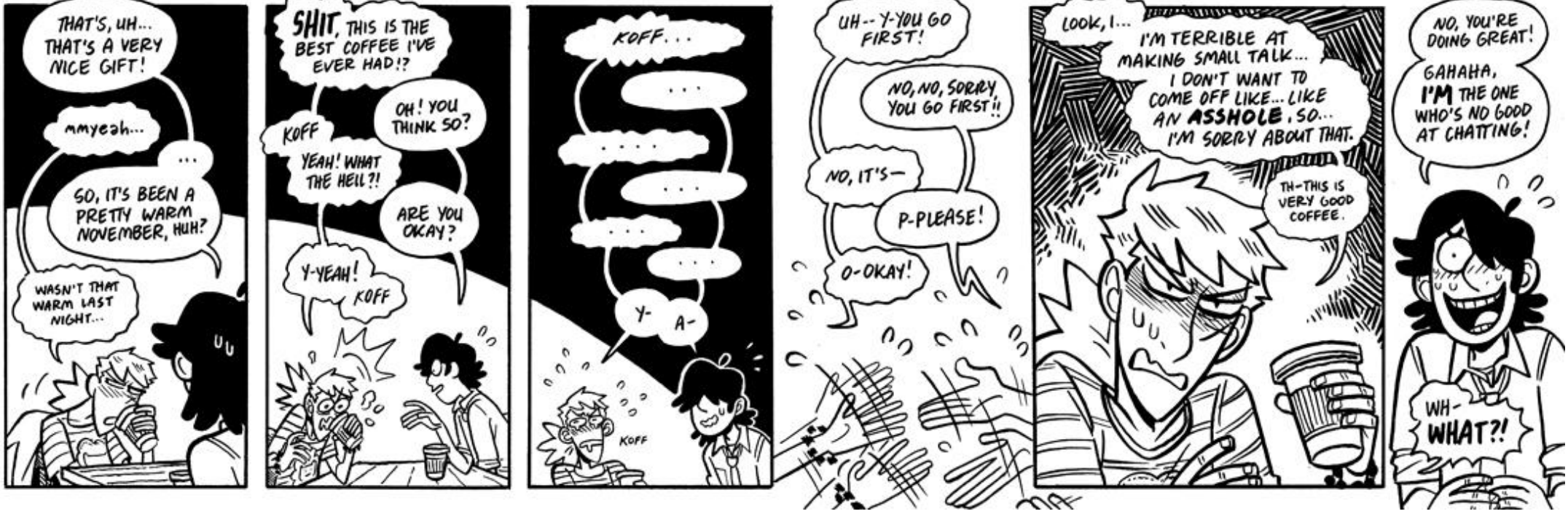
SEE YOU AT 20:30 BRO
GENKEI
C U SOON BROSKI !!!!
GOOD LUCK MAKIN FRIENDSS
DON'T OVERTHINK IT. I KNOW UR OVERTHINKING IT!!! STOP!!!!!
GENKEI
UR GR8
\O.O/ \OoO/ << ME CHEERING U ON
DON'T OVERTHINK IT?

YEAH, DON'T OVERTHINK IT.
THE FIRST IMPRESSION WAS ROCKY, YOU GOTTA NAIL THE SECOND ONE!
SET
THINK OF THIS LIKE... LIKE A SALES PITCH!
HIGHLIGHT ALL YOUR KEY FEATURES!
RELIABLE!
STYLISH!
"LOTS OF PERSONALITY!"

SELLING YOURSELF IS LIKE SELLING A REALLY BIG SCOOTER WITH A BRAIN AND ORGANS AND STUFF!
THAT'S NOT OVER-THINKING IT, RIGHT?
JUST... DON'T BE A WEIRDO.

WOW, I WISH COFFEE WAS ALCOHOLIC.

H-HI, SORRY THAT TOOK SO LONG...
NO WORRIES!
AND I HAVE YOUR BLACK BEANIE THAT YOU LEFT IN OUR APARTMENT!
I REMEMBERED TO BRING IT THIS TIME!
OH, UH... I'LL GRAB IT BEFORE I LEAVE.
I'M REALLY HOT ALL OF A SUDDEN...
WOW
OH! I LOVE YOUR SHIRT!!
WHERE'D YOU GET IT?
SOMEBODY LEFT THEIR SHIRT IN THE MARKET BREAK ROOM AND IT'S MY FAVORITE COLOR!
SCORE!
DON'T BE A WEIRDO!!!
it was a gift...


THAT'S, UH... THAT'S A VERY NICE GIFT!
mmyeah...
...
SO, IT'S BEEN A PRETTY WARM NOVEMBER, HUH?
WASN'T THAT WARM LAST NIGHT...
SHIT, THIS IS THE BEST COFFEE I'VE EVER HAD!?
OH! YOU THINK SO?
KOFF
YEAH! WHAT THE HELL?!
ARE YOU OKAY?
Y-YEAH!
KOFF
KOFF...
Y-
A-
KOFF
UH-- Y-YOU GO FIRST!
NO, NO, SORRY, YOU GO FIRST!!
NO, IT'S—
P-PLEASE!
O-OKAY!
LOOK, I...
I'M TERRIBLE AT MAKING SMALL TALK... I DON'T WANT TO COME OFF LIKE... LIKE AN ASSHOLE, SO... I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
TH-THIS IS VERY GOOD COFFEE.
NO, YOU'RE DOING GREAT!
GAHAHA, I'M THE ONE WHO'S NO GOOD AT CHATTING!
WH-WHAT?!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND, O-OR DENY IT... IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE BETTER AT TALKING TO PEOPLE THAN ME.
IT WAS, UH... FINE TALKING TO YOU ON SATURDAY, AND...
THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT WE COULD TALK, UH...

MORE...

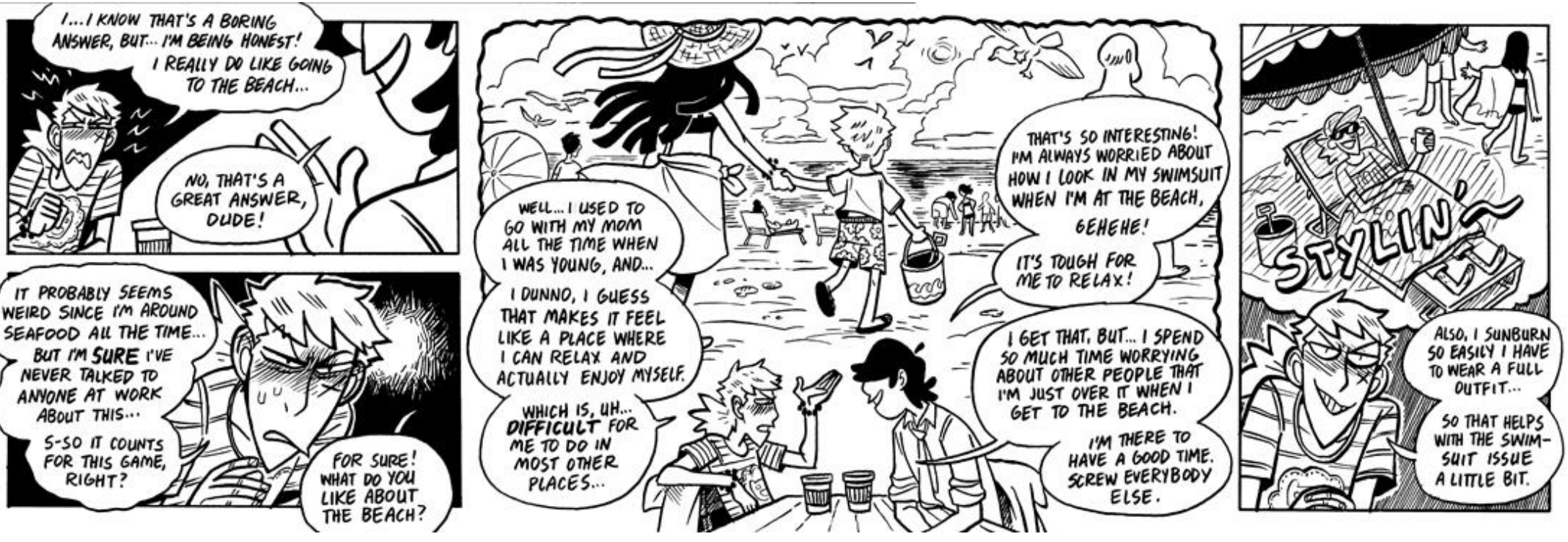
BUT I WAS SOOO DRUNK SATURDAY NIGHT, THAT'S NOT--
I DON'T THINK THAT WAS AN ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF HOW I REALLY AM...
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THAT NIGHT, I MEANT EARLIER.

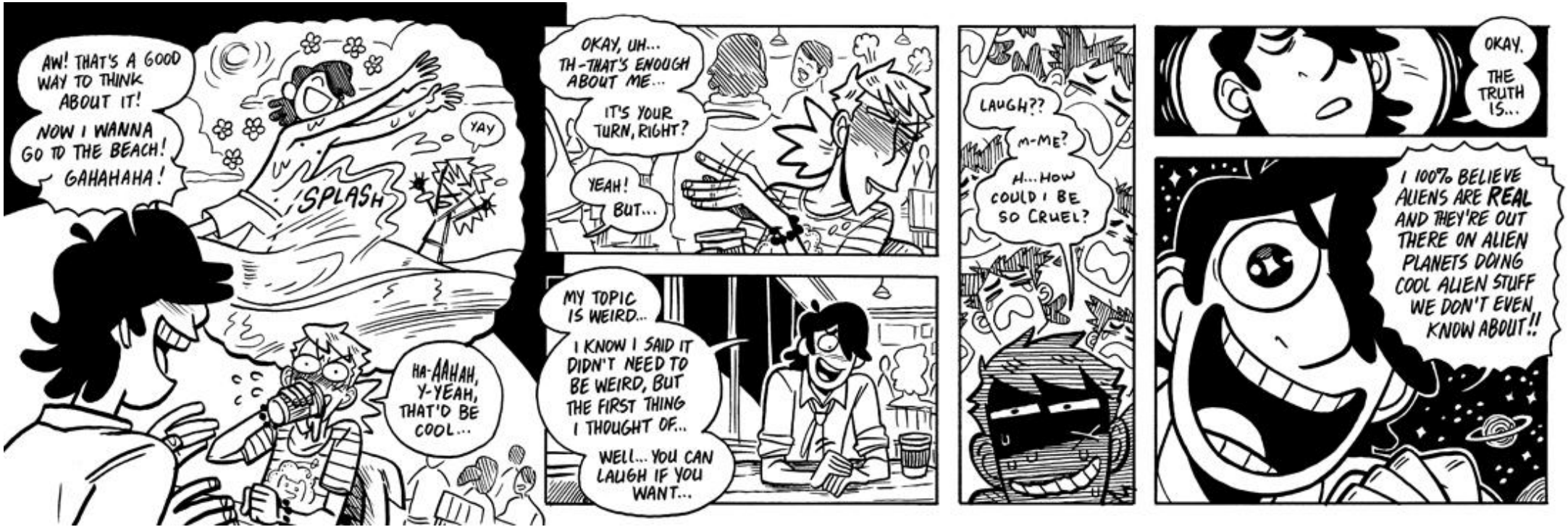
WHEN WE WERE SPYING ON JIRO AND STUFF... IT PROBABLY DIDN'T LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I... I DIDN'T HATE IT...
AND ANYWAYS, I WAS EVEN DRUNKER. I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING PAST LIKE, 22:00...
WASN'T THERE LIKE... A GIRAFFE OR SOMETHING...

... WHAT?

YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?
N...
NO?
SIP
WELL, IF WE CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO TALK ABOUT, WE SHOULD PLAY A CONVERSATION GAME OR SOMETHING!!
GAHAHAA!!
HA HAHA, YEAH, OKAY!! WH-WHAT'S A CONVERSATION GAME?!

OKAY, SO, FOR THIS GAME YOU TRY TO THINK OF SOMETHING YOU REALLY LIKE, BUT MAYBE NOBODY KNOWS YOU LIKE THIS THING?
OR MAYBE YOU NEVER TALK ABOUT IT WITH ANYONE?
AND SO, YOU TELL YOUR CONVERSATION PARTNER ABOUT IT!
AND THEN THEY TALK ABOUT SOMETHING THEY LIKE!
AND YOU JUST GO BACK AND FORTH LIKE THAT!
IT'S JUST, Y'KNOW...
AN EASIER WAY TO START A CONVERSATION.
Y-YOU CAN GO FIRST! IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ANYTHING WEIRD OR PERSONAL!
SOMETHING I LIKE THAT I DON'T... TALK ABOUT?
YEAH!
...DID YOU MAKE THIS UP?
ACTUALLY, I LEARNED IT AT A MANDATORY CORPORATE TEAM-BUILDING EVENT A FEW MONTHS AGO.
BUT IT'S FUN TO TALK ABOUT STUFF YOU LIKE!
...
I...
I REALLY LIKE...
GOING TO THE BEACH?


I...I KNOW THAT'S A BORING ANSWER, BUT... I'M BEING HONEST! I REALLY DO LIKE GOING TO THE BEACH...
NO, THAT'S A GREAT ANSWER, DUDE!
IT PROBABLY SEEMS WEIRD SINCE I'M AROUND SEAFOOD ALL THE TIME... BUT I'M SURE I'VE NEVER TALKED TO ANYONE AT WORK ABOUT THIS...
S-SO IT COUNTS FOR THIS GAME, RIGHT?
FOR SURE! WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE BEACH?
WELL... I USED TO GO WITH MY MOM ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND...
I DUNNO, I GUESS THAT MAKES IT FEEL LIKE A PLACE WHERE I CAN RELAX AND ACTUALLY ENJOY MYSELF.
WHICH IS, UH... DIFFICULT FOR ME TO DO IN MOST OTHER PLACES...
THAT'S SO INTERESTING! I'M ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT HOW I LOOK IN MY SWIMSUIT WHEN I'M AT THE BEACH, GEHEHE!
IT'S TOUGH FOR ME TO RELAX!
I GET THAT, BUT... I SPEND SO MUCH TIME WORRYING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE THAT I'M JUST OVER IT WHEN I GET TO THE BEACH.
I'M THERE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME. SCREW EVERYBODY ELSE.
STYLIN'~
ALSO, I SUNBURN SO EASILY I HAVE TO WEAR A FULL OUTFIT...
SO THAT HELPS WITH THE SWIM-SUIT ISSUE A LITTLE BIT.


AW! THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO THINK ABOUT IT!
NOW I WANNA GO TO THE BEACH! GAHAHAHA!
SPLASH
YAY
HA-AAHAH, Y-YEAH, THAT'D BE COOL...
OKAY, UH... TH-THAT'S ENOUGH ABOUT ME...
IT'S YOUR TURN, RIGHT?
YEAH! BUT...
MY TOPIC IS WEIRD..
I KNOW I SAID IT DIDN'T NEED TO BE WEIRD, BUT THE FIRST THING I THOUGHT OF...
WELL... YOU CAN LAUGH IF YOU WANT...
LAUGH??
M-ME?
H...HOW COULD I BE SO CRUEL?
OKAY.
THE TRUTH IS...
I 100% BELIEVE ALIENS ARE REAL AND THEY'RE OUT THERE ON ALIEN PLANETS DOING COOL ALIEN STUFF WE DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT!!

....
OH.
SKCH SKCH
AH-HEM
UM
A-ALIENS, HUH?
WE COULD BE THE ALIENS!!
ALRIGHT... IF THERE ARE SO MANY ALIENS OUT THERE... DON'T YOU THINK WE WOULD'VE... HEARD FROM THEM BY NOW?
AH, BUT WHAT IF WE HAVE AND WE JUST DIDN'T KNOW IT?
THEY COULD ALREADY BE HERE, CHILLIN' ON EARTH! BLENDING IN! PAYING TAXES!
HOLY SHIT I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE...

S-SORRY IF THAT WAS TOO WEIRD TO TALK ABOUT...
NO, NO, I MEAN... THAT'S ABOUT AS WEIRD AS I WAS BORING...
SO WE'RE BOTH PROBABLY SUPER POPULAR AT PARTIES.
GAHAHAHA THAT'S RIGHT!!
WE CAN ONLY TALK ABOUT, LIKE, ALIENS AT THE BEACH!
HAHA, YEAH! A-ALIENS AT THE BEACH...
HAH-AHAH..
SPLASH
BUT HONESTLY, I'M MORE POPULAR AT PARTIES AFTER I'VE HAD A FEW DRINKS, GEHEHE—.
AT WORK PARTIES, I MEAN... TARO TRIES TO PUSH ME INTO THE HALLWAY IF I GET TOO ROWDY AT HOME.
WELL, TARO'S AN ASSHOLE AND I'M HAVING PLENTY OF NON-ALCOHOLIC FUN RIGHT NOW.
R-REALLY?
UNLESS A COFFEE BUZZ COUNTS?
I DON'T THINK SO, I'M ALWAYS CAFFEINATED.

HAHA-AW... ME TOO!
STOP
I'M... SORRY IF I HESITATED FOR A MINUTE THERE...
YOUR TOPIC JUST, UH... SURPRISED ME.
I REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA TALK ABOUT HYPRAMAN OR SOMETHING...
YOU LIKE HYPRAMAN, RIGHT?
GRRRPPPP
WH-OHH?
SEASON 10!
I HAD THIS SHIRT CUSTOM-SCREENPRINTED TWO HOURS AGO.

I-I'M SORRY, TANAKA...
I TRIED TO KEEP THIS BOTTLED UP FOR SO LONG, B-BUT...
THE TRUTH IS...
I...
I THINK HYPRAMAN'S CINEMATIC BLEND OF HIGH-OCTANE SCI-FI ENERGY AND REAL-WORLD SOCIOLOGICAL COMMENTARY MAKES THIS SERIES AN INSTANT CLASSIC WHOSE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE CANNOT BE OVERSTATED!
THE NARRATIVE THEMES! THE IMPORTANT LIFE LESSONS! THE INCREDIBLE MERCHANDISING POTENTIAL OF EACH STYLISH COSTUME OR UNIQUE GADGET...
EACH SEASON OF THIS AMAZING SHOW IS MATCHED ONLY BY THE SEASONS PRECEDING AND PROCEEDING IT!
AND I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT ALL ITERATIONS OF HYPRAMAN HAVE THEIR OWN UNIQUE STRENGTHS WHICH MAKE THEM EQUALLY VALUABLE!
EVEN THE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL...
THOUGH I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT ONE TOO MUCH...
ANYWAYS, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS... I LOVE HYPRAMAN AND I LOVE ALL THE SEASONS EQUALLY, AND--
OH-- UH... THAT WAS A LOT, WASN'T IT...
FLOP.

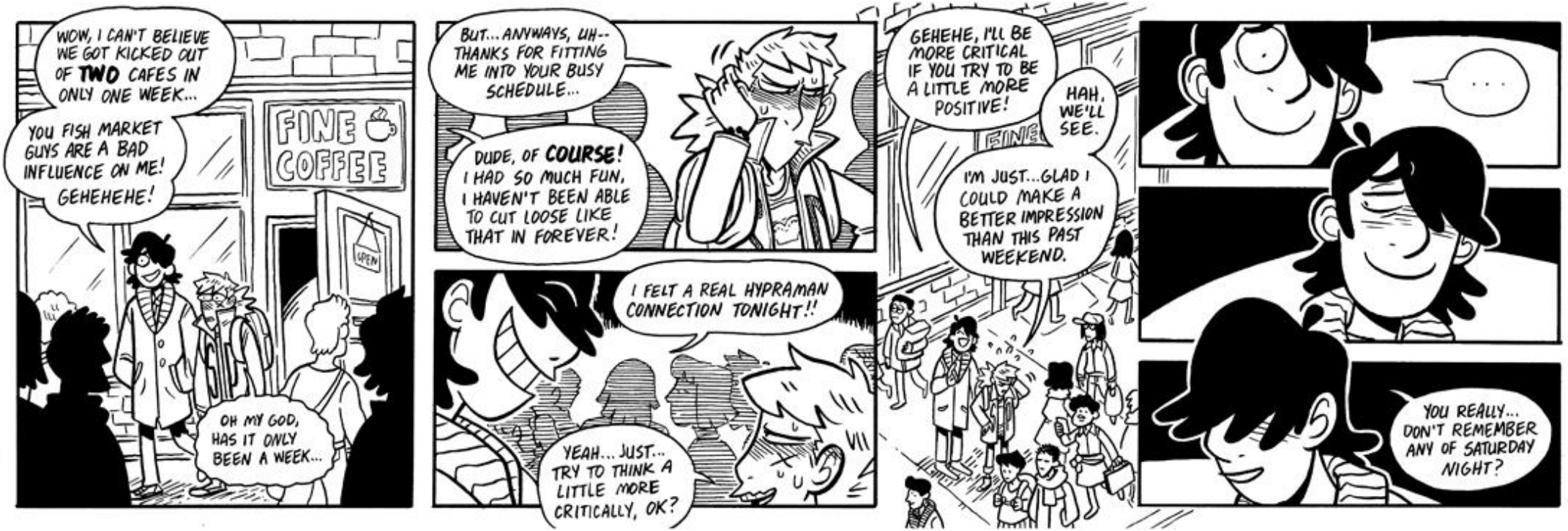
OH JEEZE, DUDE, I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO RAMBLE LIKE THAT--
W-WE CAN GO BACK TO TALKING ABOUT OTHER STUFF--
SOMETIMES I JUST REALLY GET GOING A-AND--
STOP, STOP, JUST-- JUST HOLD ON FOR A SECOND, ALRIGHT?
Sigh--
LOOK... IT'S FINE IF YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT... THIS... IT'S JUST...
I'VE BEEN TRYING REALLY HARD AND I PROMISED JIRO I'D BE NICE...
BUT...
I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE AND LISTEN TO YOU...
—TRY TO TELL ME EACH SEASON IS EQUALLY GOOD WHEN 3 AND 4 ARE GARBAGE—
AND 5 IS CLEARLY SUPERIOR IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY!!!

A-HAH!!
SO, SEASON 5 IS YOUR FAVORITE!!

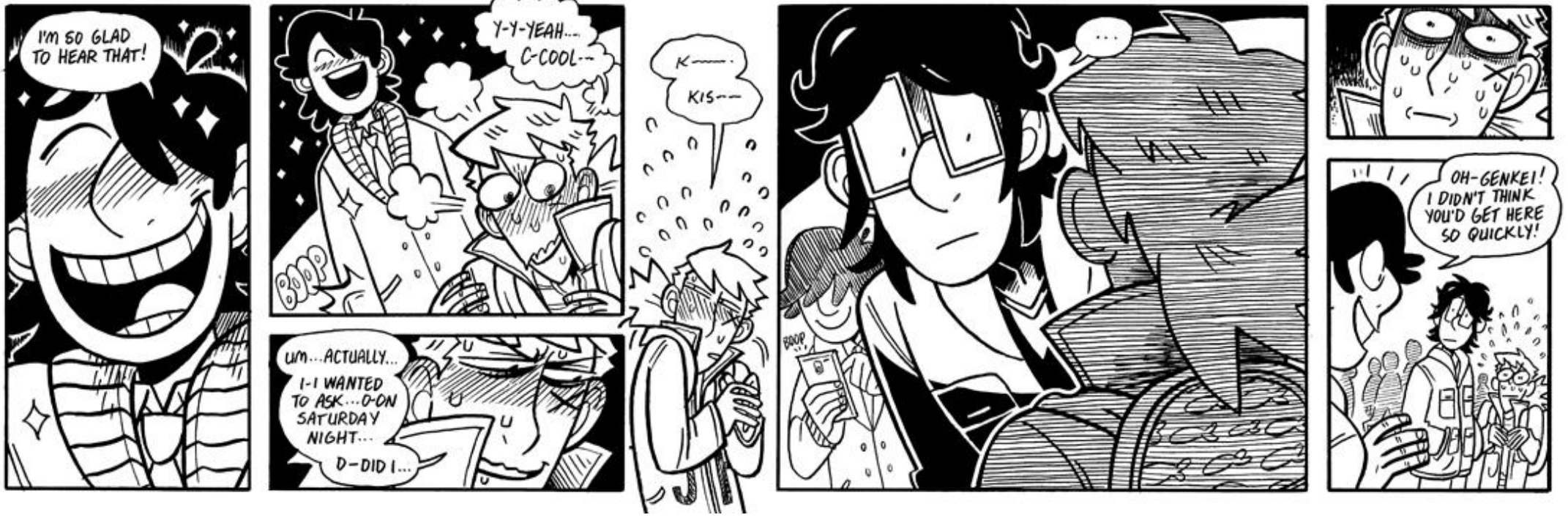
THAT'S THE SEASON WHERE THEY BROKE AWAY FROM THE TRADITIONAL MONSTER-OF-THE-WEEK FORMAT IN FAVOR OF A DEEP ROMANTIC SUBPLOT!!
INTERESTING!!
SLAM
I REALLY HAD YOU PEGGED AS A SEASON 7 FAN!!

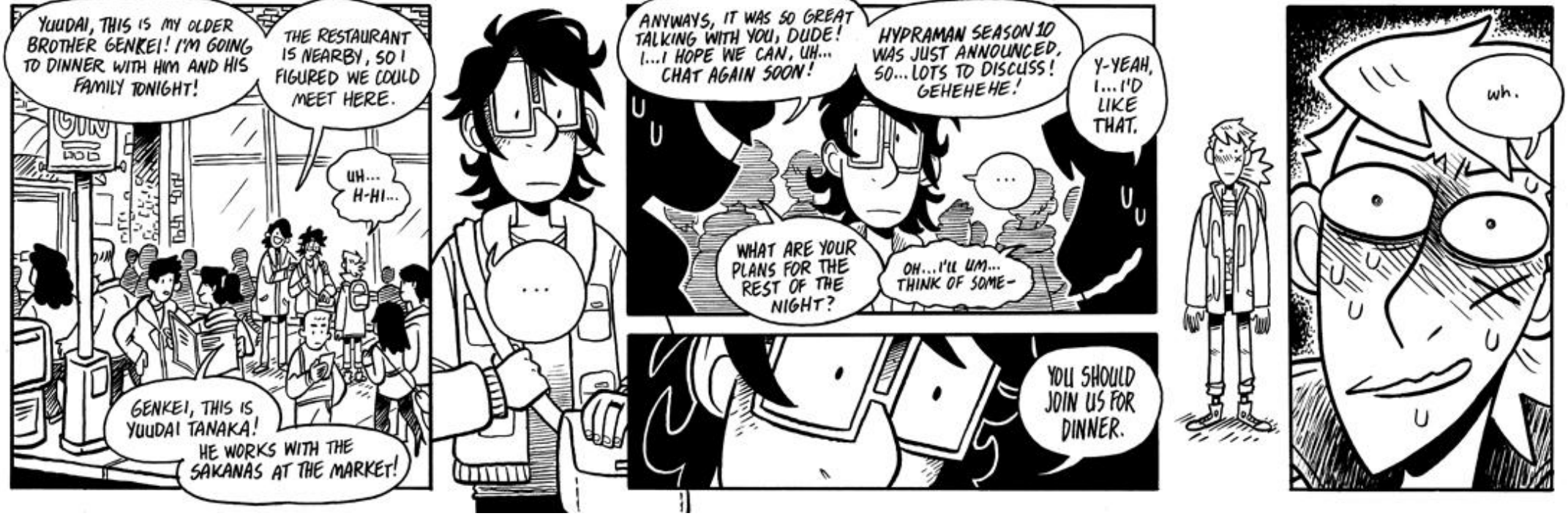
WELL, YOU'RE EITHER TOTALLY BLIND OR I'VE GIVEN YOU A BAD IMPRESSION OF MYSELF, BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY I'D PREFER SEASON 7!!
I BET YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE THERE'S A CAT IN THAT SEASON!!
SLAM
THAT WAS MY REASONING, YES!!

AND SO WHAT IF I LIKE THE ROMANTIC SEASON? HYPRAMAN'S GOT A PRETTY SHIT JOB IF YOU ASK ME! VILLAINS ARE ALWAYS HASSLING HIM, SOME DUMBASS ALWAYS NEEDS TO BE SAVED, AND IT MAKES SENSE THAT HE'D GET SICK OF IT ALL, RIGHT?
BUT HYPRAWOMAN COULD SEE RIGHT THROUGH HIS GRUFF EXTERIOR TO THE SENSITIVE, MISUNDERSTOOD SOUL UNDERNEATH!
AHHH
AND THEY HAVE THAT EXTRA-ROMANTIC DATE ON THE BEACH... WOW! I FEEL LIKE I'M PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER NOW!
YOU HAVE A PERSONAL STAKE IN SEASON 5!!
EXACTLY!! WHICH IS WHY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LIKE EVERY SEASON EQUALLY!!
BUT--
IN FACT-- I BET SEASON 7 IS ACTUALLY YOUR FAVORITE!
WH-WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
BECAUSE THAT'S THE SEASON WHERE HYPRAMAN IS ACTUALLY A KIND AND LONELY ALIEN FROM ANOTHER PLANET WHO COMES TO EARTH TO MAKE FRIENDS! AND THE MAIN ACTOR IS AS RIDICULOUSLY TALL AS YOU ARE!!
GAHAHA! YOU CAUGHT ME!
SEASON 7 IS PRETTY HIGH ON MY LIST, BUT I TRY TO FIND SOMETHING PERSONAL IN EVERY SEASON!
IMPOSSIBLE! SEASON 4? SEASON 3?! THOSE ARE GARBAGE!
HOW CAN YOU APPRECIATE SOMETHING WITH SO MANY FLAWS?
WHY EVEN TRY?
WHY NOT? IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T SEE THE FLAWS, I JUST...
...TRY A LITTLE HARDER TO APPRECIATE THE GOOD IN EVERY ONE . . . .
UM... EXCUSE ME...
YOU'RE DISTURBING THE OTHER CUSTOMERS WITH YOUR SHOUTING, SO... I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE.


WOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT KICKED OUT OF TWO CAFES IN ONLY ONE WEEK...
YOU FISH MARKET GUYS ARE A BAD INFLUENCE ON ME! GEHEHEHE!
FINE COFFEE
OPEN
OH MY GOD, HAS IT ONLY BEEN A WEEK...
BUT... ANYWAYS, UH-- THANKS FOR FITTING ME INTO YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE...
DUDE, OF COURSE! I HAD SO MUCH FUN, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CUT LOOSE LIKE THAT IN FOREVER!
I FELT A REAL HYPRAMAN CONNECTION TONIGHT!!
YEAH... JUST... TRY TO THINK A LITTLE MORE CRITICALLY, OK?
GEHEHE, I'LL BE MORE CRITICAL IF YOU TRY TO BE A LITTLE MORE POSITIVE!
HAH, WE'LL SEE.
I'M JUST... GLAD I COULD MAKE A BETTER IMPRESSION THAN THIS PAST WEEKEND.
...
YOU REALLY... DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF SATURDAY NIGHT?

...
I DON'T.
THEN...
WHY WERE YOU SO UPSET ON SUNDAY MORNING?
THAT WAS... A PERSONAL MATTER.
IT DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU-- OR THE SAKANAS.
IT'S JUST... SOMETHING I'M DEALING WITH...
THAT'S SUCH A RELIEF--I-I MEAN, NOT THAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH SOMETHING, JUST...
I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED THAT I DID SOMETHING WRONG, OR RUINED YOUR NIGHT, OR...
OR OFFENDED YOU, OR MADE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE OR--
NO, NO, NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
I MIGHT NOT REMEMBER ALL THE DUMB STUFF I DID THAT NIGHT, BUT...
FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD...
IT SOUNDS LIKE I HAD A REALLY GREAT TIME.


I'M SO GLAD TO HEAR THAT!
Y-Y-YEAH... C-COOL--
BOOP
UM...ACTUALLY... I-I WANTED TO ASK...D-ON SATURDAY NIGHT... D-DID I...
K——. KIS--
...
BOOP
OH-GENKEI! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D GET HERE SO QUICKLY!


YUUDAI, THIS IS MY OLDER BROTHER GENKEI! I'M GOING TO DINNER WITH HIM AND HIS FAMILY TONIGHT!
THE RESTAURANT IS NEARBY, SO I FIGURED WE COULD MEET HERE.
UH... H-HI...
GENKEI, THIS IS YUUDAI TANAKA! HE WORKS WITH THE SAKANAS AT THE MARKET!
...
ANYWAYS, IT WAS SO GREAT TALKING WITH YOU, DUDE! I...I HOPE WE CAN, UH... CHAT AGAIN SOON!
HYPRAMAN SEASON 10 WAS JUST ANNOUNCED, SO... LOTS TO DISCUSS! GEHEHEHE!
Y-YEAH, I...I'D LIKE THAT.
...
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT?
OH...I'LL UM... THINK OF SOME-
YOU SHOULD JOIN US FOR DINNER.
wh.

flippy's Cafe
ENTER THROUGH GIFTSHOP.
sigh... UNGRATEFUL LITTLE TWERPS...
GRRR-

'EY! JIRO WANTED ME T'LET Y'ALL KNOW HIM N'CHIE ARE TAKIN' A WALK DOWN BY THE WATER.
EITHER A' 'YA NEED A RIDE HOME?

I'LL TAKE A CAB.
I'LL TAKE A DIFFERENT CAB.

SUIT YERSELVES.
ME N' JAN N' SANGO ARE OFF T'FIND A NICE PLACE T'EAT.

YEA-HAH!! LET'S KEEP THIS HOT DATE GOING!! WOO!!
YBΩΔH!!

WOULD Y'ALL PLEASE PUT YER DANG SEATBELTS ON!?
VROOOMM

KIR

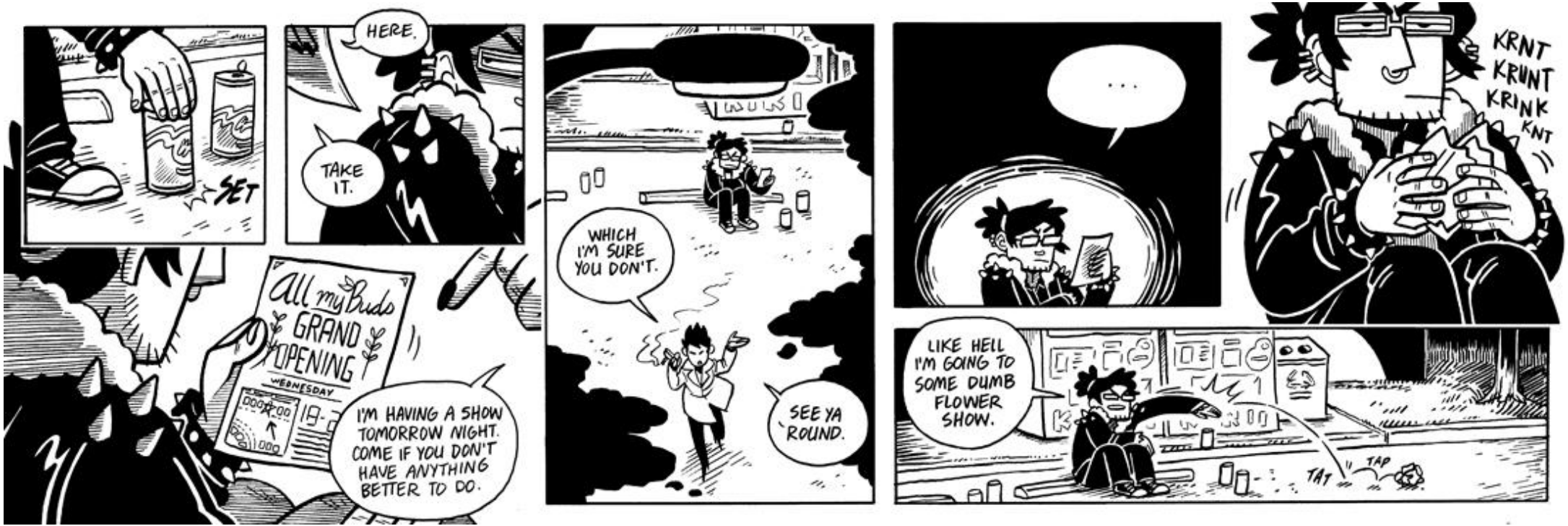
KI
sighh

ALRIGHT, I'M OUTTA HERE.
IF CHIE WANTS TO PAL AROUND WITH THAT LITTLE PIPSQUEAK SO MUCH, I CAN'T STOP HER.
UGGHHHH! EVERYONE'S LEAVING ME!

QUIT FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF.
AND TAKE THAT UGLY SHIRT OFF ALREADY.
YOU LOOK RIDICULOUS.

HMPH. I NEVER CALLED YOUR OUTFIT UGLY.

WELL.
THEN YOU MUST HAVE TERRIBLE TASTE.


SET
HERE.
TAKE IT.
All my Buds
GRAND OPENING
WEDNESDAY
I'M HAVING A SHOW TOMORROW NIGHT. COME IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO.
WHICH I'M SURE YOU DON'T.
SEE YA 'ROUND.
...
KRNT KRUNT KRINK KNT
LIKE HELL I'M GOING TO SOME DUMB FLOWER SHOW.
TAT
TAP

HAHA
HA
HA
HA
HAHA!
HMM!
SO!
THAT WAS PRETTY FUN, HUH?
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME?
I-I HAD A GREAT TIME! HAHAHA!
LIKE, A REALLY GREAT TIME!
HEHE, YOU SOUND SO SURPRISED!
I'M NOT SURPRISED IN A BAD WAY... I JUST...
Y'KNOW... I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT... WELL...
I MEAN...
LIKE, NOTHING WENT HORRIBLY WRONG, AND...
IT'S KIND OF FREAKING ME OUT.

NOOO! DON'T FREAK OUT ABOUT THE GOOD STUFF!
I KNOW SHOULDN'T FEEL BAD..
BUT...I WAS SO NERVOUS AND MADE SO MANY BAD DECISIONS AND THEN...
EVERYTHING TURNED OUT FINE! LIKE USUAL!
SO WHY DO I DO THAT TO MYSELF?
WHY DO I ALWAYS...
JIRO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MAD AT YOURSELF.
LET'S FOCUS ON THE GOOD STUFF INSTEAD OF WHAT HAPPENED BEFOREHAND.
PAT PAT
LIKE, THIS TIME YOU WEREN'T ALMOST KILLED BY A GIANT DONUT!
OH... I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT THAT...
AND WE THWARTED OUR SIBLINGS, AND TRIED ON SOME COOL HATS, AND YOU GOT KISSED BY A SEA LION!
I WOULDN'T CONSIDER THAT LAST ONE A POSITIVE, BUT...
I MEAN... IT WAS REALLY NICE TO HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS AND SEE SOME COOL FISH!
AND...
AND SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU...
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME?
I DID.
TODAY WAS WONDERFUL.

SO, I'D CONSIDER THAT A PRETTY SUCCESSFUL DATE, RIGHT?
RIGHT!
...
DO YOU WANT TO KEEP WALKING?
S-SURE!
YOU KNOW... I REALLY WANT TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE TERRIBLE STUFF I DID IN PRESCHOOL, SO...
I'M REALLY GLAD WE CAN HAVE SO MUCH FUN TOGETHER.
I REALLY HOPE I'M NOT STRESSING YOU OUT TOO MUCH.
NO, I'm OKAY! I'M JUST... A NERVOUS PERSON IN GENERAL, HAHA—
AND REALLY, YOU SEEM LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON FROM BACK THEN.
ALSO... WE WERE LIKE, FIVE YEARS OLD.
YOU REALLY THINK SO...?
SOMETIMES I DON'T FEEL VERY DIFFERENT.

I FELT REALLY AWFUL AFTER YOU LEFT PRESCHOOL BUT... I WAS STILL A PRETTY BAD KID BACK THEN. IN FACT, I GOT KICKED OUT A FEW MONTHS LATER!
REALLY? WHY?
BECAUSE I WAS A MEAN LITTLE TERROR! AND MY PARENTS WERE NEVER AROUND, SO I JUST GOT WORSE AND WORSE, YEAR AFTER YEAR!
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU DIDN'T KNOW ME WHEN WE WERE TEENAGERS! WOW, MORI COULD TELL YOU SOME STORIES...
WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE?
WELL, IT WAS RIGHT AFTER I GOT OUT OF JUVENILE DETENTION...
J-JUVENILE DETENTION?!
AND, I SAID TO MYSELF:
CHIE, ALL YOU EVER DO IS GET INTO FIGHTS AND STEAL THINGS AND MAKE PEOPLE MISERABLE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR LIFE?
SO, I GOT A JOB TRAINING DOGS, AND I WAS ACTUALLY REALLY GOOD AT IT!
I HAD NEVER TRIED VERY HARD AT ANYTHING BEFORE... SO, THAT FELT REALLY NICE...
AND THEN I STARTED WORKING AT THE FISH MARKET, AND I MET SO MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE THERE, LIKE MR. MATSUMOTO, AND SANGO...
AND YOU...
I ONLY HAD MY SISTER BEFORE, BUT...
THESE DAYS I HAVE SO MANY THINGS TO CARE ABOUT.

YOU KNOW... IT MIGHT BE OLD AND DAMP AND FISHY... BUT I THINK THE MARKET DOES A LOT FOR SOME PEOPLE.
YEAH.
...I'M SORRY, I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ALL THIS BEFORE WE STARTED OFFICIALLY DATING...
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO FREAKED OUT...
HAVE YOU MET MY BROTHER?
HEHEHE! I GUESS YOU HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE WITH THIS KIND OF STUFF THAN MOST PEOPLE!
WELL, EVERYONE'S ALWAYS GOING THROUGH SOMETHING. I JUST... TRY TO BE AS UNDERSTANDING AS I CAN.
AND PEOPLE CHANGE ALL THE TIME! I'VE SEEN IT FIRSTHAND!
AND I WANT TO CHANGE TOO! I DON'T WANT TO BE A NERVOUS WRECK!!
I WANT TO BE A COOL, CONFIDENT BOYFRIEND WHO'S NOT AFRAID TO HAVE A GOOD TIME!
AWESOME! DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE UP FOR ANOTHER DATE??
CLASP
YEAH!! LET'S DO IT!!!
BUT, GIVE ME A FEW DAYS...
I'M GONNA NEED SOME TIME TO RECOVER FROM THIS ONE...
I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND.

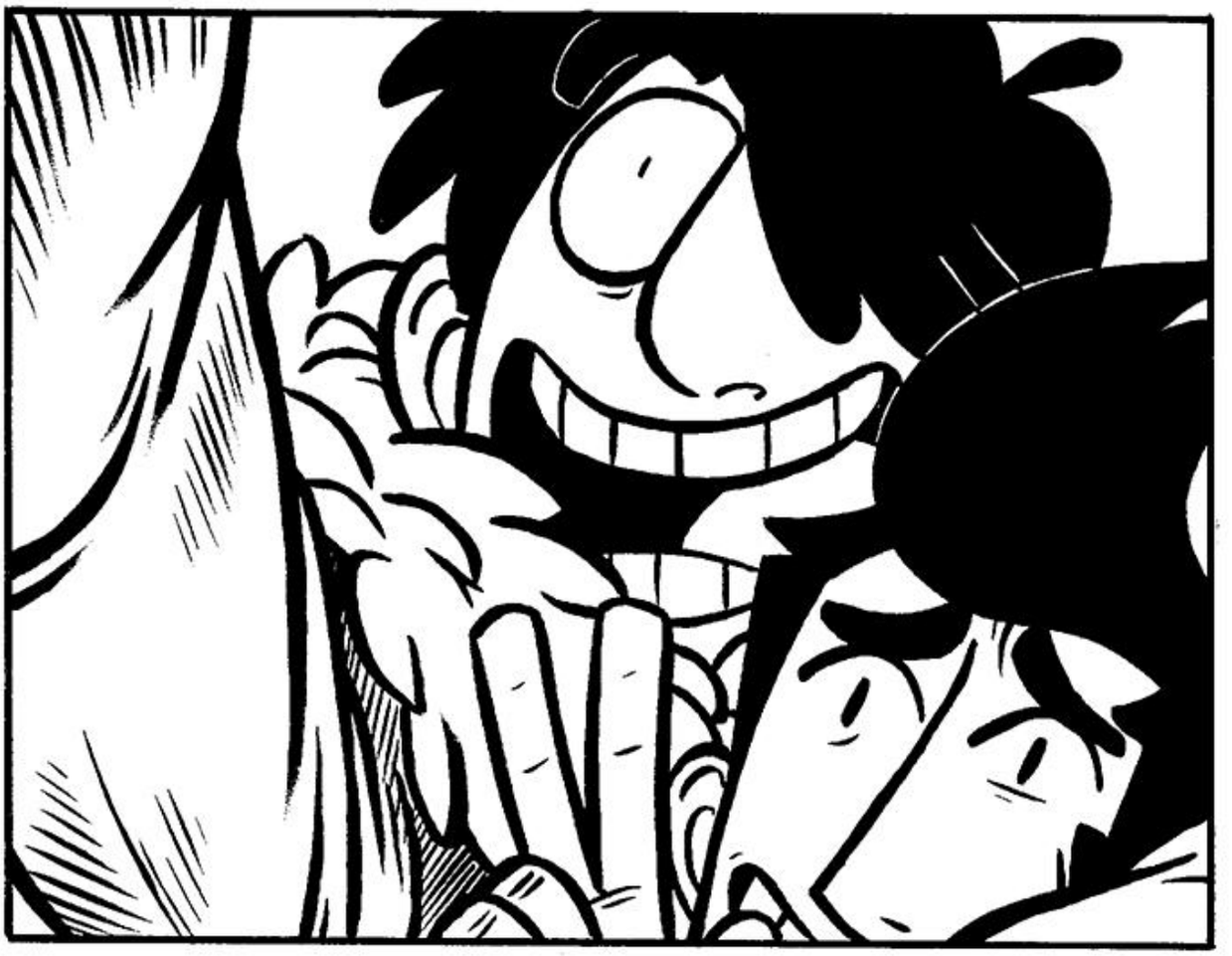
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NOW?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT I THINK I'D LIKE TO STAY OUT A LITTLE LONGER...
...
...
WANNA LOOK AT PICTURES OF MY DOGS?
OH MY GOD, YES!
SOON:
THIS ONE'S TOSHIO, AND THAT'S TADASHI, AND THIS ONE'S CALLED TARO, ACTUALLY!
AND THERE'S TAICHO! MY BIG MAN!
I DON'T REMEMBER TAKING SO MANY PICTURES OF HIM... EHEHE ~
HE'S HUGE...
SWIPE SWIPE
I CAN'T WAIT TO INTRODUCE YOU!
AHAH... YEAH... CAN'T WAIT...
AND WHO'S THAT? HE'S BEEN IN A BUNCH OF THESE PICTURES.
OH, THAT'S MY BOSS! HE DOESN'T LIKE HIS PICTURE TAKEN SO HE NEVER SMILES.
WOW!
BUT HE'S THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS! TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW!

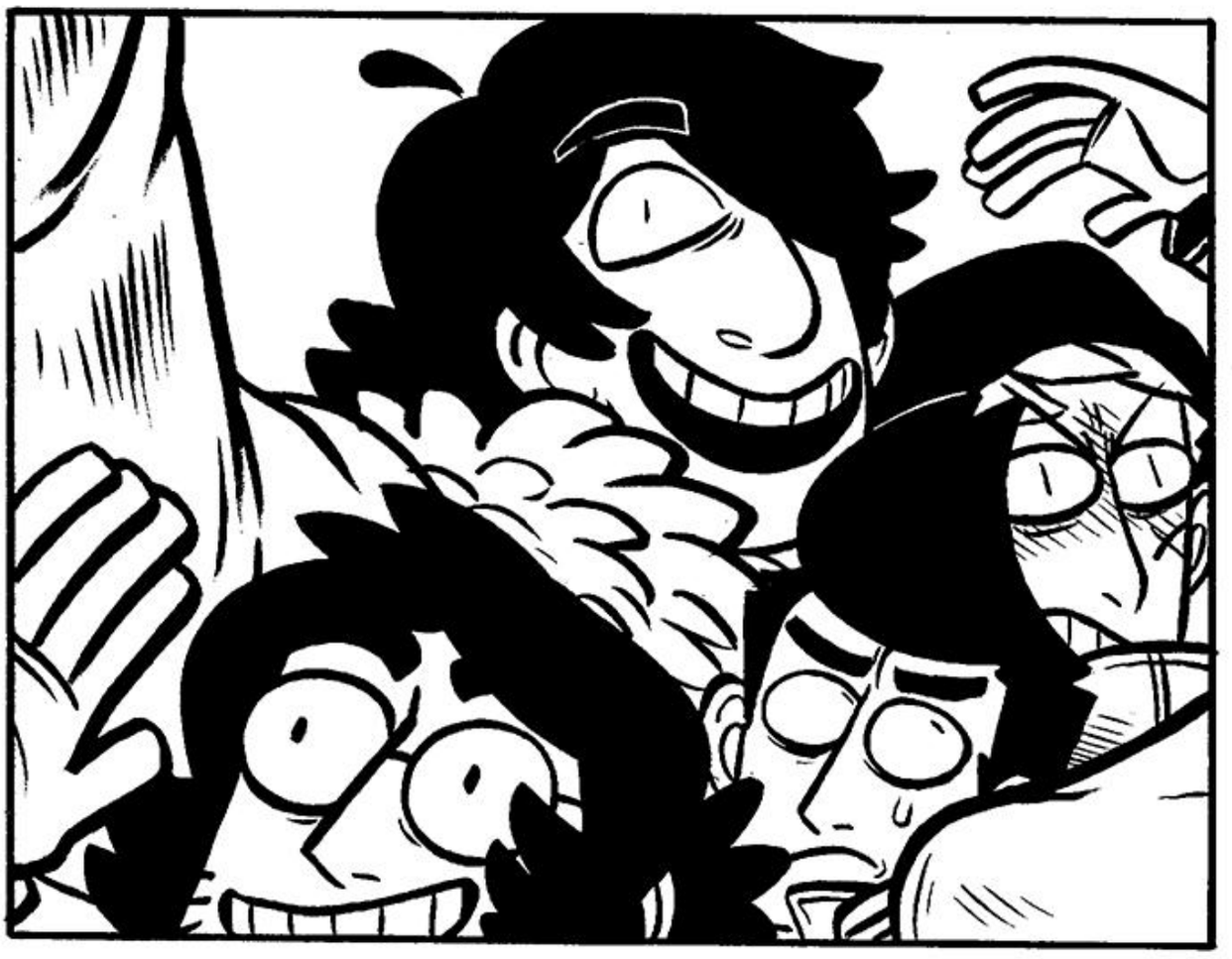
I HOPE YOU CAN MEET HIM SOME DAY!

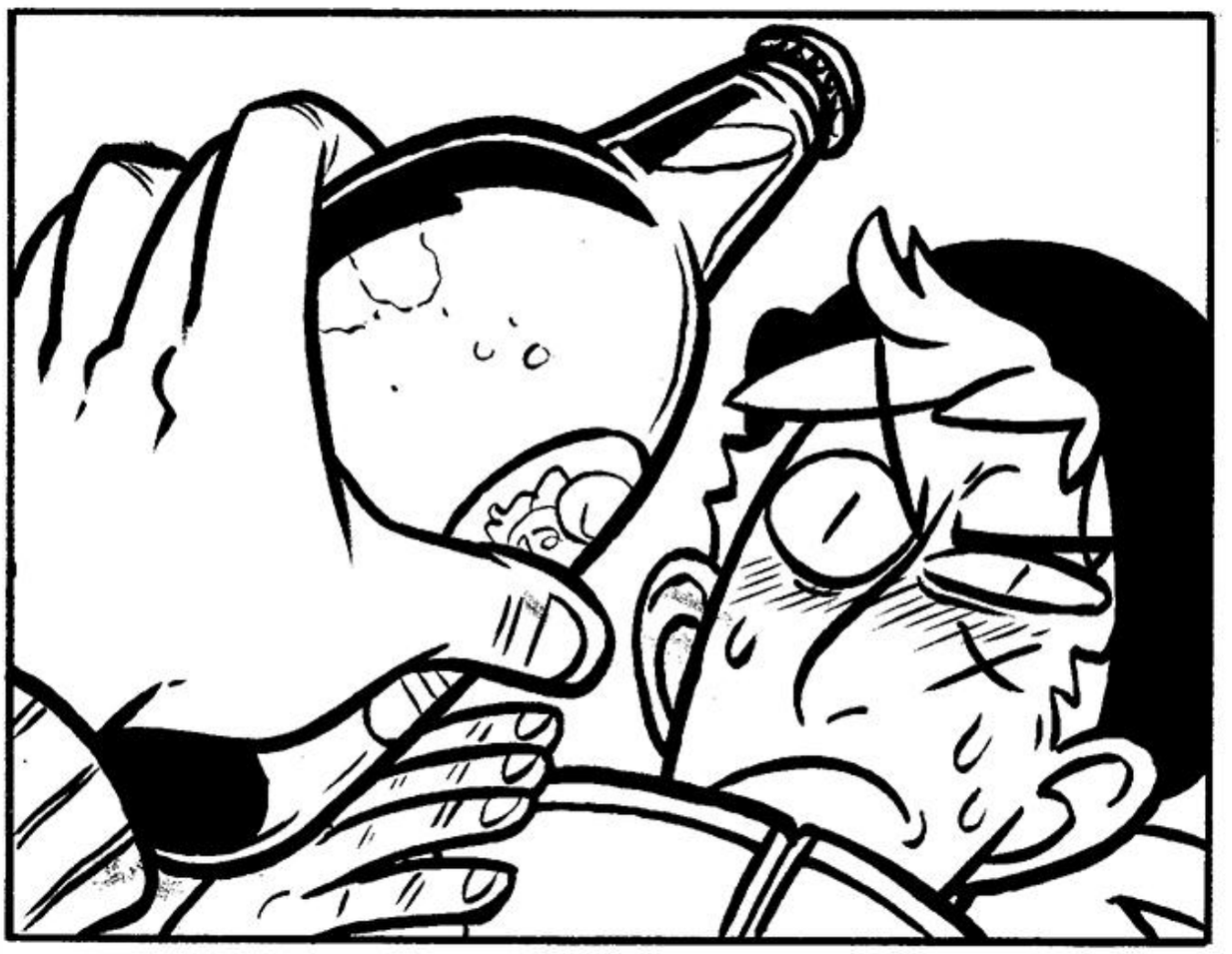
SATURDAY NIGHT

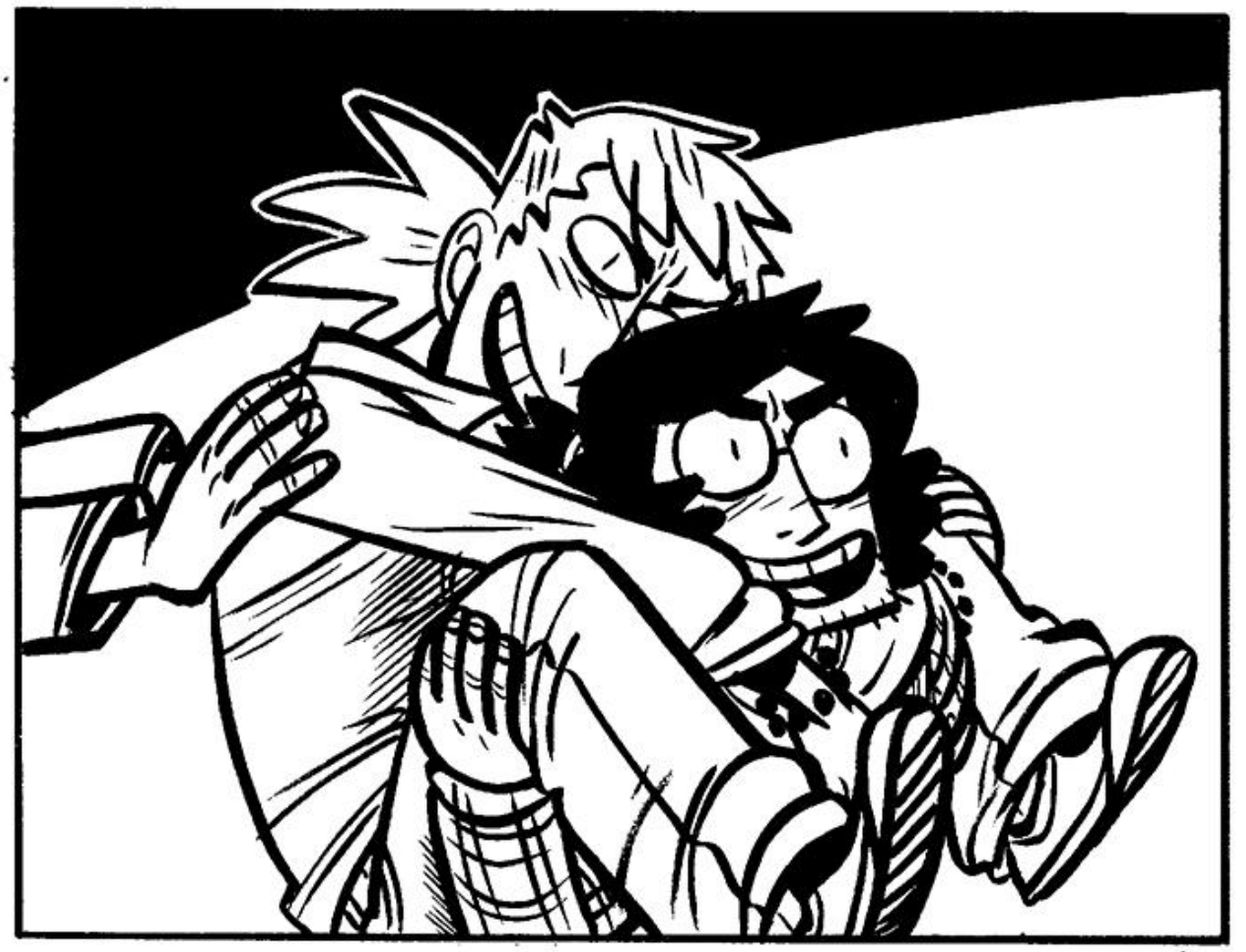
A SAKANA SUNDAY STORY
BY MAD RUPERT

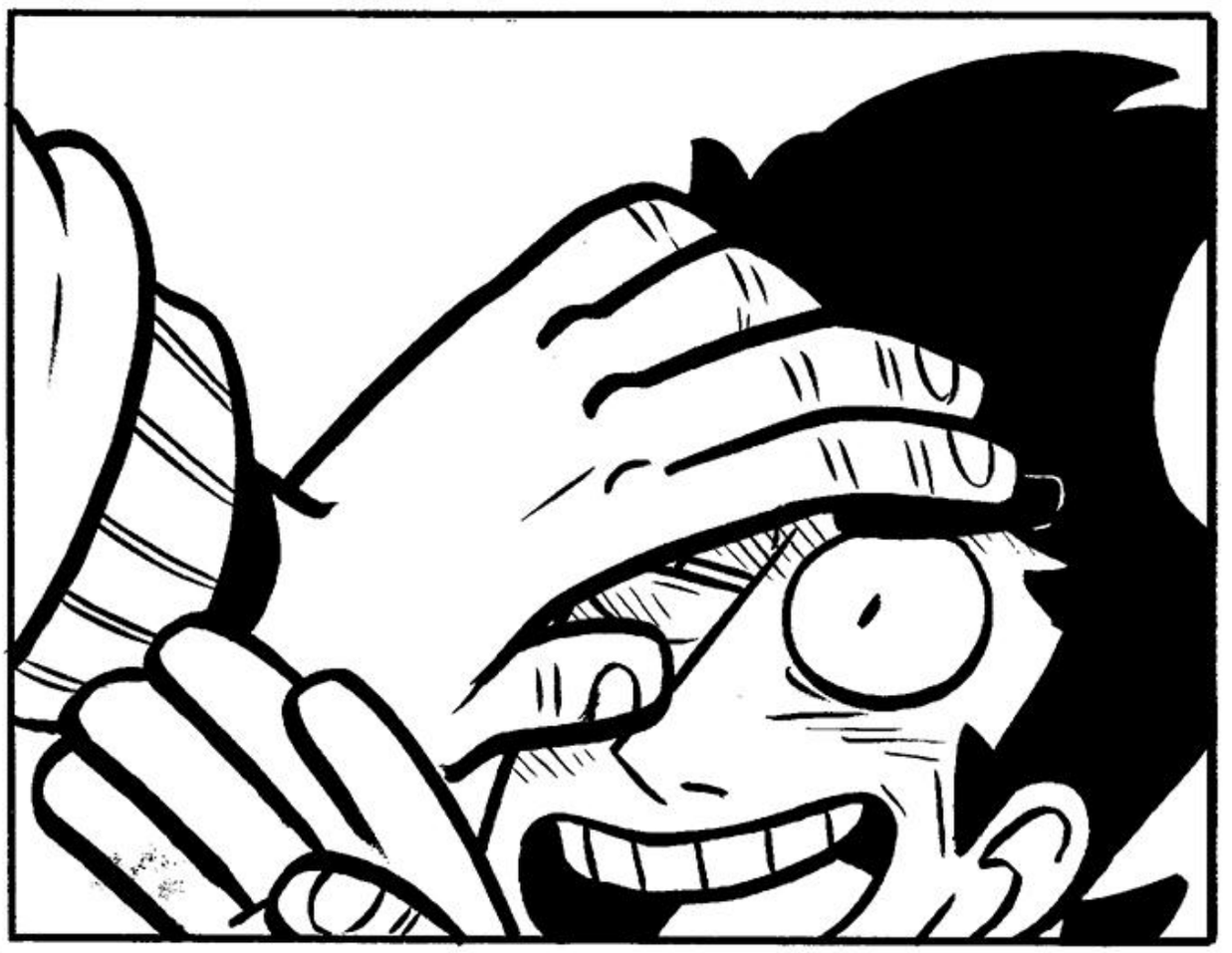
ALRIGHT, JIRO, YOU'RE ON REGISTER. TARO, IN THE BACK. I'M ON CUSTOMER SERVICE.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING TO EITHER OF YOU TODAY.
SO JUST DO YOUR JOB AND STAY AWAY FROM ME, GOT IT?
BLINGA-LING
A TEXT? THIS EARLY?
FROM TAISEI?
JIRO!!!! LOOK @ THESE PICS I FOUND ON MY PHONE FROM SATURDAY NIGHT!! 80!!!
BOOP
I DON'T REMEMBER HALF THIS STUFF LOL!!!



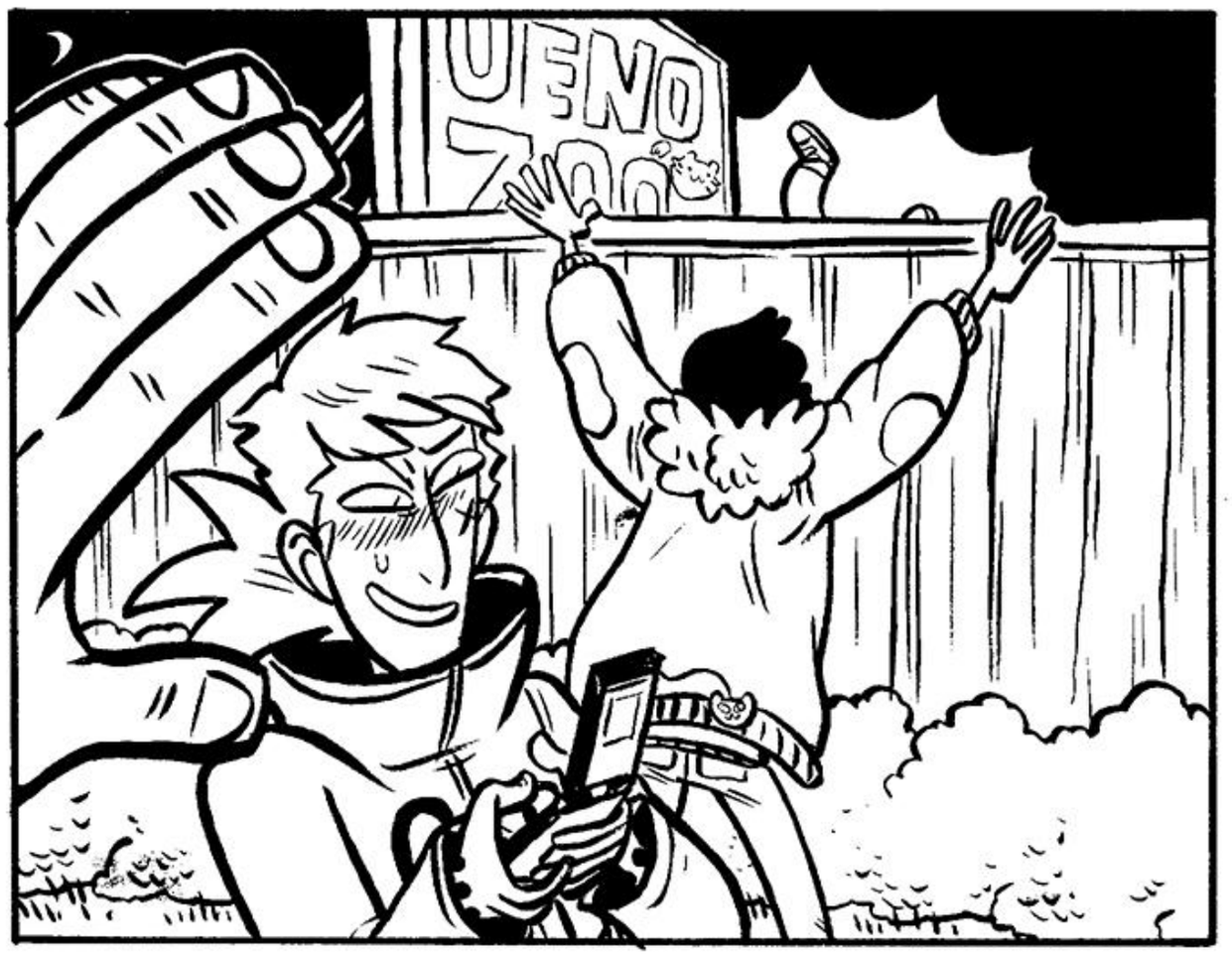








UENO
ZOO


UENO
ZOO

DEAD

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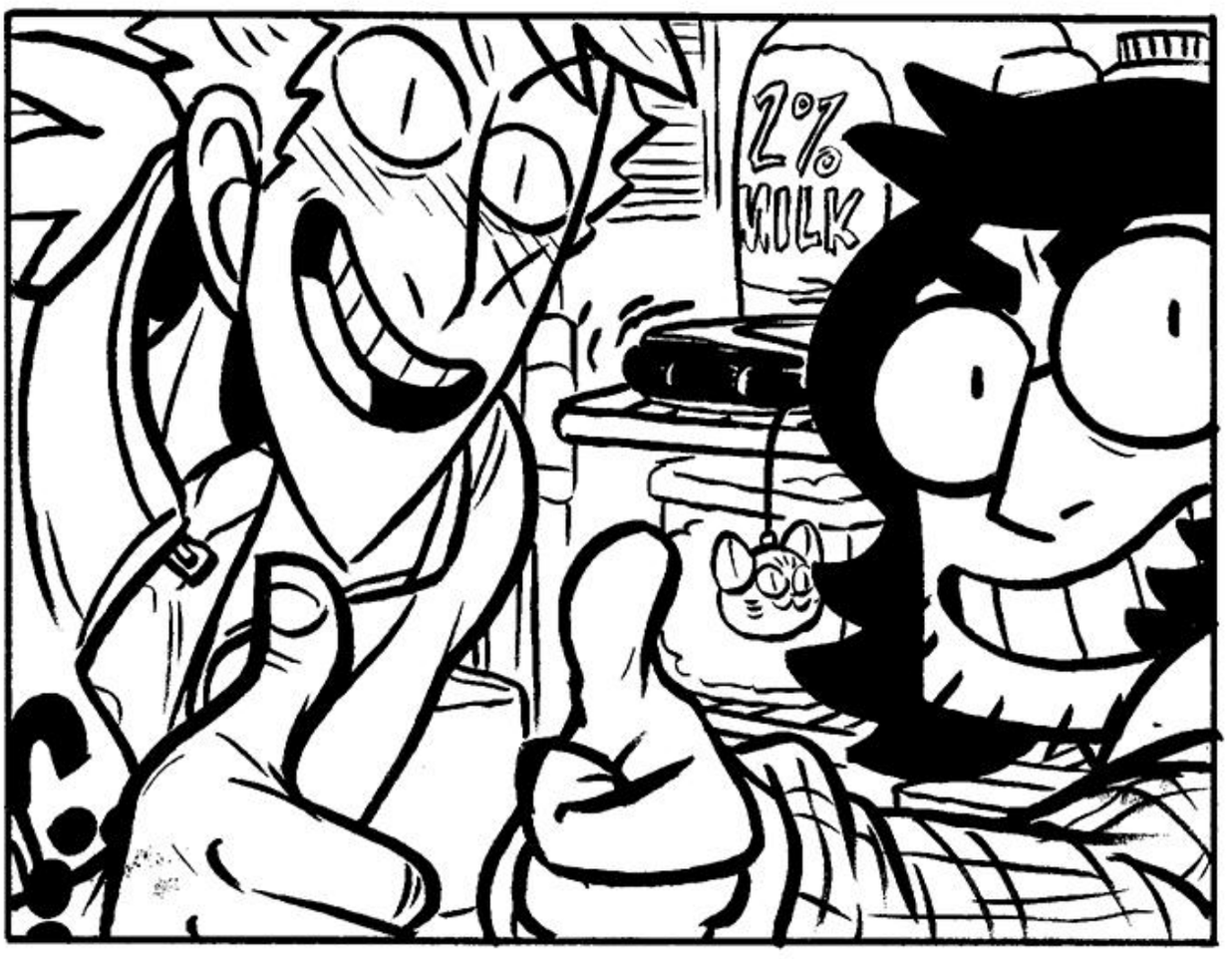

2%
MILK

JIRO!!
I DON'T REMEMBER "STAND AROUND DOING NOTHING" BEING ON TODAY'S AGENDA!!
...
-THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!
NOTHING!!
WELL GET BACK TO WORK!
R-RIGHT!
I CAN NEVER SHOW THESE TO ANYONE...

THE END!

WHAT KIND OF DRUNK ARE YOU?

TAISEI:

IT TAKES A LOT TO GET TAISEI DRUNK, AND CONSIDERING HOW OFTEN HE **IS** DRUNK, THAT'S A LOTTA BOOZE.

>HE DRINKS LESS WHEN HE'S OUT WITH FRIENDS SO HE CAN HELP IF THEY GET TOO HUNG OVER

TARO:

TARO IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET DRUNK, BUT HE KEEPS IT A SECRET SO HE CAN DO STUFF HE ALWAYS WANTS TO BUT PRETEND IT'S CUZ HE'S INTOXICATED

YUUDAI:

YUUDAI IS AN EXTREME LIGHTWEIGHT. IT TAKES HIM LIKE 2 LIGHT BEERS TO GET FALL-DOWN DRUNK. HE IS 1000% MORE PERSONABLE AND TOUCHY-FEELY WHILE INEBRIATED.

>WEIGHING PRACTICALLY NOTHING AND HARDLY EVER DRINKING PLAY A BIG FACTOR IN THIS.

JIRO:

JIRO HAS AN AVERAGE TOLERANCE. BUT DOESN'T LIKE THE TASTE OF BEER MUCH. HE DRINKS QUICKLY TO GET DRUNK FASTER. HE IS VERY UNFOCUSED WHILE DRUNK, AND HAS TO BE MONITORED OR ELSE HE'LL WANDER OFF OR FALL OVER SOMETHING OR SOMEONE.

PART I

7 YEARS AGO

THE STALL WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU, MA!
WE'RE LOSING THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN THE WHOLE MARKET!
HAW HAW!! THAT'S RIGHT!
BOSS
WE'RE GONNA HAVE A HECK OF A TIME REPLACING YOU!
WHAT ABOUT MY GRANDSONS?
JIRO'S TOO YOUNG, BUT...
...OF COURSE I'LL ASK GENJI AND TARO FIRST!
SAKANA'S
BUT, Y'KNOW, IT'S HARD TO GET TEENAGERS TO DO ANYTHING THESE DAYS!
SO, MAYBE I'LL PUT A SIGN OUT FRONT...
JUST IN CASE...
HELP WANTED
SAKANA'S STALL
IN THE INNER MARKET!!
SUPERVISOR: REN SAKANA
SEEKING FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE W/ PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING SEAFOOD. BUTCHER EXPERIENCE A BIG PLUS!!!

HAW HAW!! THERE'S MY FAMILY!
AND THE STRINGBEAN!
HI, MR. SAKANA!
HI, UNCLE REN.
AND MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE, YUMIKO!
NO BACK PATS WHILE I'M HOLDING THE LAUNDRY, DEAR.
GENJI, MY BOY!
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO COME WORK WITH YOUR OLD MAN AT THE MARKET?
DAAAD!!
WAP!!
I'M ON THE PHONE!!
IS YOUR BROTHER HOME, SQUIRT?
TARO'S IN HIS ROOM!
HE'S BEEN THERE ALL DAY...
TARO, MY FAVORITE NEPHEW!!
HAW HAW, JUST KIDDING, JIRO!!
KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO WORK AT THE FISH MARKET WITH YOUR UNCLE REN?
WE COULD USE A STRONG YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU!
go [redacted] yourself,
shitty old man.
AHAWHAW HAW...
SLAM!!
T-TEENAGERS...

THE NEXT DAY...
OF COURSE THEY WON'T COME WILLINGLY!
I SAY YOU JUST DRAG THOSE PUNKS IN HERE AND THROW APRONS ON THEM!
THEY'RE JUST HAVING A ROUGH TIME! TARO ESPECIALLY...
I CAN'T FORCE THEM TO WORK HERE.
S'CUSE ME, SIR. IS'SIS SAKANA'S STALL?
SURE IS! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
M'NAME'S SHIGERU WATANABE, SIR.
I JUS' GOT INTER TOWN FROM OSAKA, AN' I'M LOOKIN' FER A JOB.
SAW YER PAPER OUTSIDE'A THE MARKET AN' THOUGHT I'D BETTER APPLY.
AH, PERFECT! WE CAN DO THE INTERVIEW IN THE BACK ROOM!
WATCH THE FRONT FOR A MINUTE, KOJI!
YEAH, OKAY!
AW, JUS' LIKE MY OLD MAN'S SHOP!
YOUR FAMILY HAS A STALL?
NAH, WE HAD'TER SELL IT AFTER HE PASSED.
WEREN'T DOIN' MUCH BUT WASTIN' MONEY WITH ONLY ME`TER RUN IT.
AND WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO?
WELL, BACK IN OSAKA, I GOT TWO SISTERS, TWO MA'S, AN' TWO GRANDMA'S.
FIGURED THEY'D ALL NAG ME T'DEATH IF I DIDN'T GET OUT ON MY OWN.
FEB
MAR
APR

HAW! FAIR ENOUGH!
WHAT KINDA WORK DID YOU DO?
A LIL' BIT'A EVERYTHING.
BUT MY OLD MAN ALWAYS SAID I HAD A KNACK FER BUTCHER WORK...
SO, I 'SPOSE THAT'S WHAT I'M BEST AT.
HAW HAW!!
YOU'RE A SHOE-IN FOR THIS JOB, KID!
WHEN CAN YOU START?
AHHAAAHhh-uh
W-WELL I'M STILL MOVIN' IN, SO...
HOW'S ABOUT THURSDAY?
WAP
erk...
EXCELLENT!
THANKS AGAIN! I'M EXCITED TER' START WORKIN'!
SEE YOU THURSDAY, KID!

HAW HAW HAW, WELL THAT TAKES CARE OF IT!
WAP WAP WAP
SOMEBODY SHOULD GO TAKE THE SIGN DOWN, CUZ' WE GOT OURSELVES A NEW BUTCHER!

IS THIS SAKANA'S STALL?!
ARE YOU REN SAKANA?!
I'M APPLYING TO THE JOB ON THIS FLYER!!
O-OH? BUT WE--

I-I'M GOOD AT MATH! AND TAKING DIRECTIONS!
AND GIVING DIRECTIONS!!
I'M A SELF-STARTER!
I WORK VERY HARD!
I'M A TEAM PLAYER!
WOAH!! HAW HAW, SLOW DOWN, BOY!

I'M SORRY, BUT... WE'VE ALREADY HIRED SOMEONE!

WHERE ARE THEY?
HUH? UH... HE'S STARTING ON THURSDAY.

I CAN START RIGHT NOW!!
I'M IN WORK CLOTHES!
I CAN START WORKING RIGHT THIS SECOND!

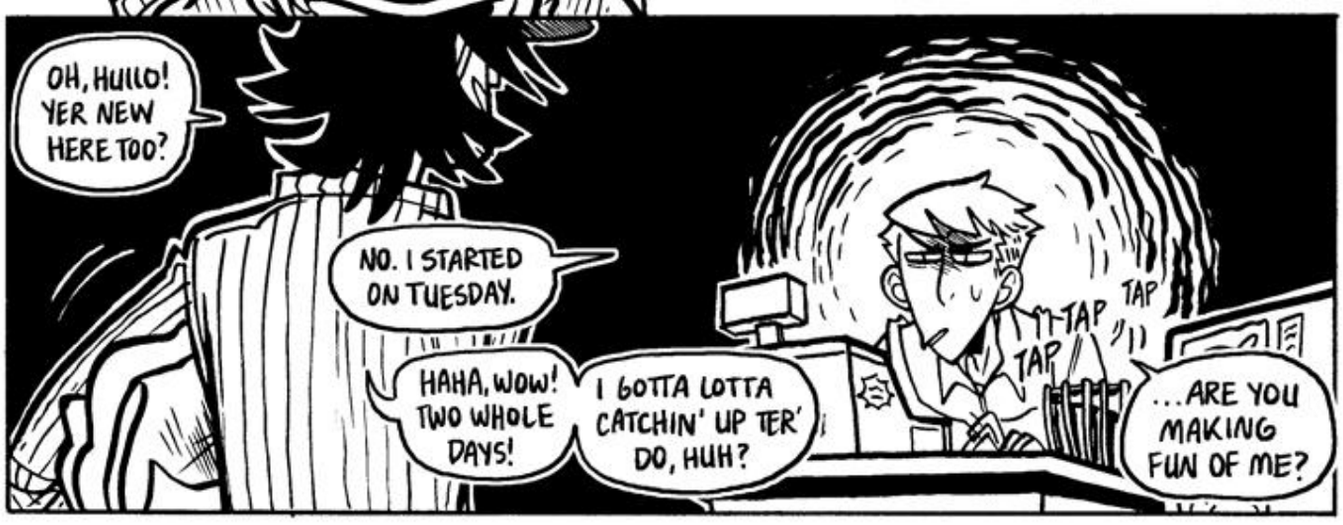
HOLD ON, THERE! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
TANAKA!
HOW OLD ARE YOU, TANAKA?
E-EIGHTEEN...
HAH, YOUNGER THAN TARO!
HAVE YOU WORKED IN A WHOLESALE MARKET BEFORE?
N-NO...
CAN YOU...UH... LIFT HEAVY BOXES?
I-I COULD TRY...
WHY DO YOU WANNA WORK AT A FISH STALL?
THERE'S LOTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE HERE!
AND I'M A MORNING PERSON!
AND...?
AND... IT SHOULDN'T MATTER, BUT...
IT'S COME UP A FEW TIMES IN MY JOB SEARCH THAT... I'M...
ONLY HALF JAPANESE...
A-AND I HAVE A SINGLE MOM...
A-AND I'M--
AND I DIDN'T FINISH SCHOOL...
THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPILL YOUR GUTS TO ME, BOY!
NOBODY ELSE WOULD HIRE YOU, HUH?
...YEAH.
WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DO HERE?
I COULD BE THE STALL SUPERVISOR!
WAP!!
HAW HAW HAW!!!
AREN'T YOU CHEEKY!
AH!--um--
M-MAYBE WE CAN START YOU ON REGISTER...
Th-thank you, sir.

YOU HAVE REGISTER EXPERIENCE, RIGHT?
APPLIED REGISTER BASICS!!
Y-YEAH! TONS OF EXPERIENCE!

THURSDAY...
WATANABE! THERE YOU ARE!
SORRY I'M LATE, SIR! STILL TRYIN' TA' FIGURE OUT TH' TOKYO SUBWAY.
HAWHAW, NO WORRIES!
HERE'S YOUR APRON!

YOU TWO PLAY NICE, Y'HEAR?
UH... THANKS?

SO... YOU FINALLY SHOWED UP.


OH, HULLO! YER NEW HERE TOO?
NO. I STARTED ON TUESDAY.
HAHA, WOW! TWO WHOLE DAYS!
I GOTTA LOTTA CATCHIN' UP TER' DO, HUH?
TAP
TAP
TAP
...ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?

A'COURSE NOT! I'M SHIGERU WATANABE.
WHAT'S YER NAME?
...TANAKA.
...JUST TANAKA, HUH?
YEAH, JUST TANAKA UNTIL I KNOW YOU WON'T GET FIRED FOR BEING LATE EVERY DAY.
SALT
HAHAHA, YER GONNA BE RUNNIN' THIS PLACE B'FORE LONG WITH AN ATTITUDE LIKE THAT!
YEAH, WE'LL SEE.
I'M SHUR WE'LL GET'TER KNOW EACH OTHER SOON E'NUFF.
I'LL BE IN THE BACK.
GIVE A HOLLER IF YA NEED ME.
IT'S YUUDAI TANAKA.
SWISH~
THE END!

PART II

4 YEARS AGO

YOU CALL THIS QUALITY MERCHANDISE?!
I WOULDN'T PAY ¥1000 FOR THIS PIECE OF CRAP!
I DEMAND TO SEE YOUR REAL STOCK!!
IF IT'S NOT TO YOUR LIKING, MA'AM, MR. TANAKA CAN FIND SOMETHING BETTER!
YEAH, I CAN--
I'M NOT CUTTING A DEAL WITH A HALF-JAPANESE!
WOW!!
THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT!!
I WANT DECENT FISH OR I'M TAKING MY BUSINESS ELSEWHERE!
AHAAƆƆƆ.
OF COURSE. THIS WAY, PLEASE.
MR. WATANABE CAN PREPARE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU!
EH... RIGHT, MR. WATANABE...?
OH! SURE THING, MA'AM.
HMPH!

YOU BETTER BE GOOD WITH THAT KNIFE!
I'M FAIRLY DECENT, MA'AM.
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
I'LL CALL THE SHOTS HERE!
MA'AM...
AND DON'T CUT TOO FAST!
AND DON'T--
NO, NOT LIKE THAT!!!
MA'AM!!
KCHOP
NOOO, YER DOIN' FINE, BOY! DON'T LET ONE ROTTEN FISH RUIN YER PIE!
WHAT'S THAT EVEN SUPPOSED TO MEA--
YEEEAAAAHHHH!!!
UM...

SHE HAD NO BUSINESS BEING IN OUR STALL!
ESPECIALLY IN THE BACK ROOM!!
SHE SHOULD BE THE ONE PAYING FOR THIS, NOT MR. SAKANA!
BUT HE BETTER LET YOU KEEP YOUR JOB!
YOU CAN STILL WORK WITH EIGHT FINGERS!
HAHA... THANKS FER BELIEVIN' IN ME.
BUT...I MIGHT TAKE A LIL' BREAK AFTER THIS...
Y-YOU'RE COMING BACK THOUGH, RIGHT?
SURE. I'LL BE BACK SOON ENUFF.
G-GOOD!
'CUZ IF YOU WEREN'T,
I'D BE...
UH...
BOOP
...
UHH...I-I GOTTA GO.
I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.
UH, BACK AT WORK.
BYE.
BYE...

THE NEXT DAY:
I KNOW THIS IS A BAD TIME, REN, BUT HIYORI'S DUE IN A MONTH!
I GOTTA FIND SOMETHING WITH BETTER HOURS...
NO, I UNDERSTAND. I'LL...START LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT.
HAW HAW, MY WHOLE FAMILY'S MOVIN' ON, BOY!
W-WELL, I'M STILL HERE!
HAW HAW! OF COURSE YOU ARE!
BUT MY MA N' PA ARE RETIRED, KOJI'S FAMILY'S GROWIN', MY BOYS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE...
THIS STARTED OUT AS A FAMILY BUSINESS, BUT I'M THE ONLY SAKANA LEFT!
THAT MUST BE... DISAPPOINTING, SIR...
OH, DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY!
I APPRECIATE ALL YOUR HARD WORK, YUUDAI!
THANKS.
AND NOW THAT KOJI'S LEAVING...
I'LL NEED A NEW STALL SUPERVISOR.
...
...ME?
YES, YOU!
IF YOU WANT THE JOB, THAT IS!
YEAH! OF COURSE I DO!!!

THE NEXT WEEK:
KOJI! GET THAT LIST OUT TO THE PORTERS!!
WE NEED MORE OCTOPUS RIGHT NOW!
HRMMMM...
ONLY BEEN SUPERVISOR A FEW DAYS AND HE'S ALREADY A PERFECT TYRANT.
HEY, YOU.
IS REN SAKANA AROUND?
UH...
I THINK YOU HAVE THE...
WRONG STALL...

OH MY GOD, TARO?!?
IS THAT YOU?!
REN!! TARO'S HERE!!!
TARO?!?
??
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS!!! WHERE WERE YOU?! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
mmh..
HOLD DOWN THE FORT, YUUDAI!
THIS IS IMPORTANT FAMILY BUSINESS!
O-OKAY?
ONE HOUR LATER:
GOOD NEWS!
TARO IS GOING TO BE OUR NEW BUTCHER!
WHAT?!
I HAVE TO GO CANCEL THAT MISSING PERSON'S REPORT!
COULD YOU CHECK IN ON HIM? GIVE HIM SOME TIPS?
THANKS!
UGH... HIRING SOME THUG THAT JUST WANDERED IN...
SO WHAT IF THEY'RE FAMILY.
WHAT DOES THIS GUY KNOW ABOUT BEING THE BUTCH--

--YYYYAHHAAA WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
why god.
YOU RUINED A WHOLE CASE OF PERFECTLY GOOD FISH!!!
WHERE DID ALL THIS BLOOD COME FROM?!?!
YOU CAN'T JUST SMASH THEM WITH THE KNIFE, ARE YOU INSA--
KRAK
DO YOU THINK IT'S SMART...
TO TALK TO ME LIKE THAT...
YOU--
YOU KNOW WHAT ISN'T SMART?!

S-SLAMMING YOUR KNIFE INTO THE COUNTER LIKE THAT.
IT'S BAD FOR THE BLADE.
KR-KRACH
THAT'S A FAIR CRITICIM.
OH MY GOD I CAN'T WAIT FOR SHIGERU TO GET BACK.
AH...
I AIN'T GOT TH' CONSTITUTION FOR BUTCHER WORK NO MORE.
SORRY, YUUDAI.
YOU MEAN WE'RE STUCK WITH HIM?!?
THE END!

PART III

2.5 YEARS AGO

3:05
SO, YOU'VE ONLY SEEN YOUR BROTHER A FEW TIMES IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS...
BUT HERE YOU ARE...
SLEEPING ON HIS COUCH BECAUSE YOU FLUNKED OUT OF SCHOOL.
IT'S...IT'S COOL THAT YOU CAN RECONNECT WITH HIM...
AND IT'S NICE THAT YOUR UNCLE OFFERED YOU SOME HOURS AT THE FISH STALL...
BUT IT'S JUST TEMPORARY.
Y'KNOW...
UNTIL YOU...UH... FEEL LIKE TRYING THE SCHOOL THING AGAIN.
IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
YOU...YOU CAN TRY AGAIN.
3:42
IT'S JUST TEMPORARY.
YOU WON'T WORK THERE FOREVER...
4:29
JUST UNTIL YOU...
...FEEL BETTER.

BEEP BEEP BEEP
4:30
BEEP BE-PUNCH
bh-buhhHHUUWU HAAHHGHH?!
GOOOOOD MORNING, PRECIOUS BABY BROTHER!!!
WH-WHAT TIME IS IT?!
IT'S 4:30, BRO! TIME TO GET READY FOR WORK!
I HOPE YOU GOT SOME GOOD SLEEP!
YOUR FIRST DAY'S GONNA BE CRAZY!
uugghhh...
ISN'T THIS GREAT, JIRO? US BROS, OUT AND ABOUT, HAVIN' SOME FUN!
FUN ISN'T POSSIBLE AT 4:30...
FEELS GOOD TO HANG OUT AGAIN, RIGHT?
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!

OLD TIMES...
YOU MEAN LIKE BEFORE MOM AND DAD DIED?
I-I'M SORRY, THAT WAS MEAN...
N-NO, IT'S OKAY!
I...I KNOW I'VE BEEN A SHITTY BROTHER FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS BUT...I'M EXCITED THAT WE GET TO WORK TOGETHER NOW...
THE MARKET'S BEEN REALLY GREAT FOR ME AND...I THINK YOU'LL LIKE IT TOO!
O-OKAY.
BUT IT'S JUST TEMPORARY.
SURE! LET'S GET GOING!
YUUDAI'S GONNA MURDER US IF WE'RE LATE.
SOON...
AND HERE WE ARE AT THE OUTER MARKET!
THIS ISN'T THE MAIN ENTRANCE, BUT I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THE BIG FISH 'CUZ IT'S COOL.
UH... THANKS?

AND HERE'S THE INNER MARKET!
I DIDN'T KNOW THIS WAS ALL BACK HERE! IT'S LIKE A MAZE!
IT'S THE BIGGEST SEAFOOD MARKET IN THE WORLD! OF COURSE IT'S HUGE AND CRAZY!
ALSO, WATCH OUT FOR THOSE FISH CARTS, THEY'LL STRAIGHT UP RUN YOU OVER.
HOW DO I FIND MY WAY OUT OF HERE?
OH, DON'T WORRY! THE LONGER YOU'RE HERE, THE EASIER IT'LL GET!
SURE, BUT...I-I'M REALLY NOT PLANNING TO STAY FOR VERY LONG...
WHATEVER YOU SAY, JIRO!
MARKET MAP
BY: TARO
outer market
auction stuff
fish stalls
MORE STUFF!
loading docks
cold storage
STUFF!
produce market
main gate
AND HERE WE ARE! HOME SWEET FISH STALL!
LOOKS LIKE EVERYBODY'S ALREADY HERE.
SHKANA'S
HAW HAW, THERE HE IS!!
HI, UNCLE REN!
HOW WAS YOUR TRIP, MY BOY?
UH... GOOD! IT'S...IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME--

GOOD?! IT'S FANTASTIC NOW THAT I'VE GOT MY FAVORITE BOYS WORKIN' AT THE FAMILY STALL!
HURKkGH-- TH-THANKS FOR GIVING ME THE JOB.
PAT DA
NOW WE JUST GOTTA CONVINCE THAT BRATTY COUSIN OF YOURS!
NOW, LET'S GET TO WORK!
YOU REMEMBER SHIGERU, RIGHT?
YEAH!
MORNIN', JIRO. GOOD T'HAVE YA ONBOARD.
AHH, THANKS. PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH ME TODAY...
HAH! A'COURSE! BUT I AIN'T THE ONE WITH A PATIENCE PROBLEM.
THAT'S YUUDAI Y'GOTTA WORRY 'BOUT.
...WHO'S THAT AGAIN?
OH...YOU'VE MET HIM BEFORE.
THE SKINNY GUY AT THE BARBEQUE LAST YEAR?
UH...

LAST YEAR'S BBQ...
SO, YOU'RE HOME ON BREAK, JIRO? WHEN ARE YOU GONNA COME BACK AND WORK AT THE STALL?
EVERY SAKANA HAS TO TAKE HIS TURN, RIGHT, REN?
HAW HAW, LEAVE HIM ALONE, KOJI!
MY BOY'S GOT BIGGER PLANS THAN CHOPPING SOME FISH!
I SEE! SO HE'S SKIPPING THE GRUNT WORK AND GOING STRAIGHT FOR THE TOP!
HE'LL BE THE NEXT MARKET BOSS!
HAHA, AHH...
BOP
YOU BOYS BETTER WATCH OUT NEXT TIME HE'S IN TOWN!
HAHA HA HA HA!
HAHAHA!
THAT'S RIGHT!
HAW HAW HAW HAW!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

OH YEAH...
THE ONE WHO KEPT GLARING AT ME THE WHOLE TIME...?

THAT GUY WAS REALLY CREEPY!
THE END!

SAKANA
VOLUME 3
KICKSTARTER
LAUNCHING TOMORROW!
JANUARY 31ST - FEBRUARY 29TH !!!

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN

A LOOK BACK ON 10 YEARS OF SAKANA

WELCOME TO A VERY SPECIAL EDITION OF **HOW TO SAKANA**! I'M THE AUTHOR, **MAD RUPERT**. AND BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS COMIC, SAKANA WILL HAVE OFFICIALLY TURNED **10 YEARS OLD!!**

IN THOSE 10 YEARS, A **LOT** HAS CHANGED ABOUT THE STORY FROM WHAT WAS INITIALLY PLANNED OR CONSIDERED. SO, I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE IDEAS, BOTH BIG AND SMALL, THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO THE COMIC!

TRUTHFULLY, I'VE PROBABLY FORGOTTEN AS MANY IDEAS AS I'VE IMPLEMENTED, AND LOTS OF "WHAT-IFS" HAVE BEEN LOST TO TIME. BUT TODAY I'M DIGGING DOWN **DEEP** INTO MY BRAIN (AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS) TO BRING YOU THESE EXCITING SAKANA HYPOTHETICALS!

FOR EXAMPLE...

- TAISEI'S ORIGINAL CHARACTER DESIGN HAD STUBBLE?

- THIS WAS AN EARLY VERSION OF YUUDAI

- TARO'S DESIGN WAS BASED ON A WHALE AT ONE POINT

I GUESS THIS IS WHAT WHALE HAIR LOOKS LIKE?

I BEGAN POSTING SAKANA PAGES TO **DEVIANTART** IN JANUARY 2010. I ONLY HAD 11 PAGES TO START WITH (IT WAS A SCHOOL PROJECT ORIGINALLY) BUT I WANTED TO CONTINUE PRACTICING MY COMIC-MAKING SKILLS. I WASN'T SURE WHERE TO TAKE THE LARGER STORY, SO I BEGAN USING **DA POLLS** TO HELP ME SOURCE NEW IDEAS.

NOTABLE POLLS INCLUDED...

Q: THE PHONE # IN STRIP #12 WAS...?
A: CASH REGISTER GIRL'S # ~~~ (**60%**)
B: NOT CRG'S # ~~~ (40%)

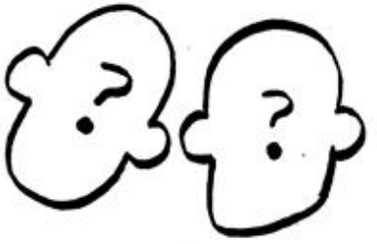
-361 VOTES, FEBRUARY 22, 2010

Q: HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE WORK AT THE STALL...?
A: JUST JIRO AND TARO ~~~ (25%)
B: ONE OTHER PERSON ~~~ (**42%**)
C: TWO OTHER PEOPLE ~~~ (25%)
D: THREE OTHERS ~~~ (8%)

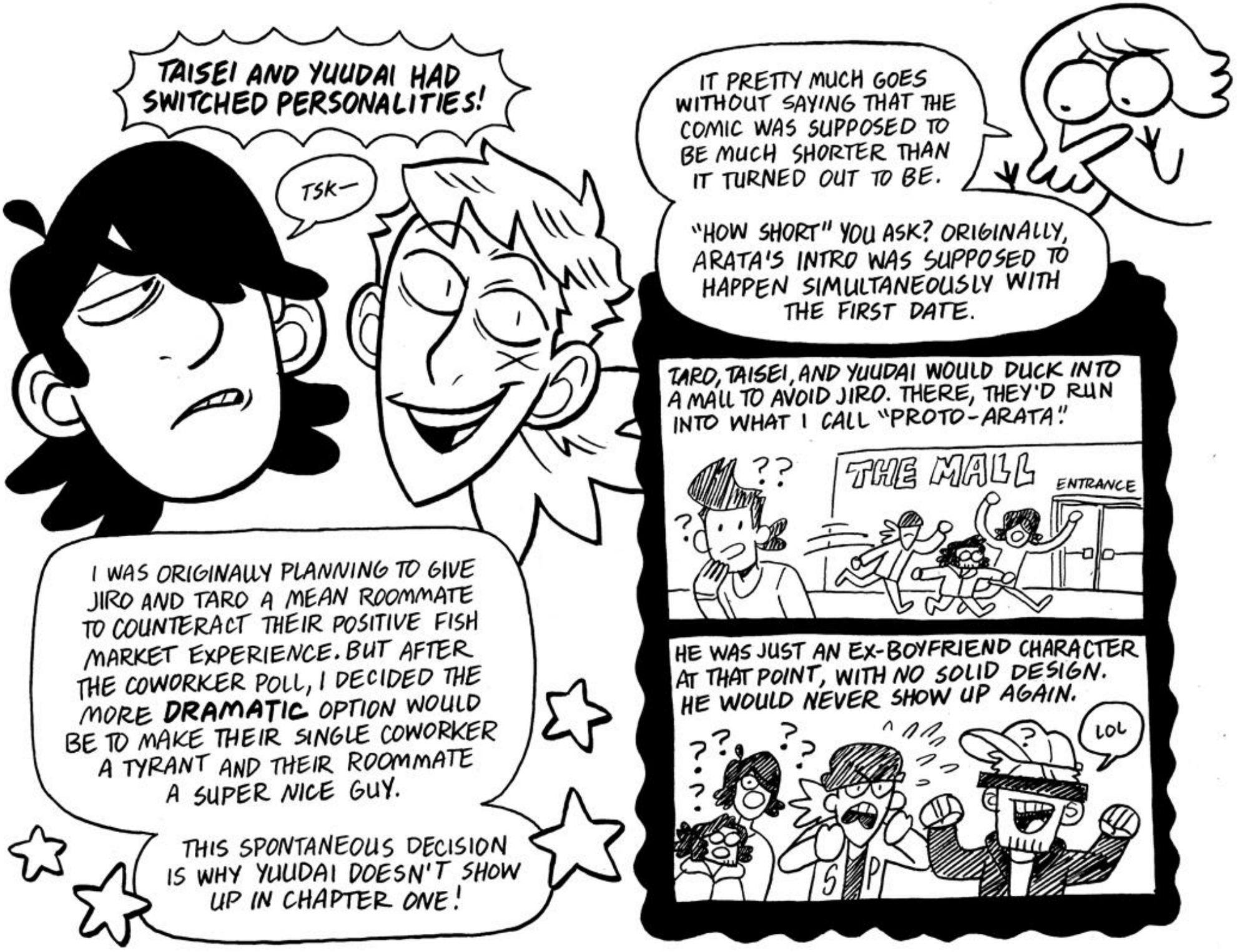
-418 VOTES, APRIL 23, 2010

WAS THAT CHIE'S #? THE MAJORITY VOTED YES! I HAVE *NO* IDEA WHAT THIS STORY WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE IF EVERYONE HAD SAID NO! DID I EVEN HAVE A BACK-UP PLAN?? I HONESTLY CAN'T REMEMBER!!!

MOST PEOPLE PICKED ONE, BUT THERE WAS AN OPTION FOR UP TO THREE NEW CHARACTERS! WHO WERE THEY??

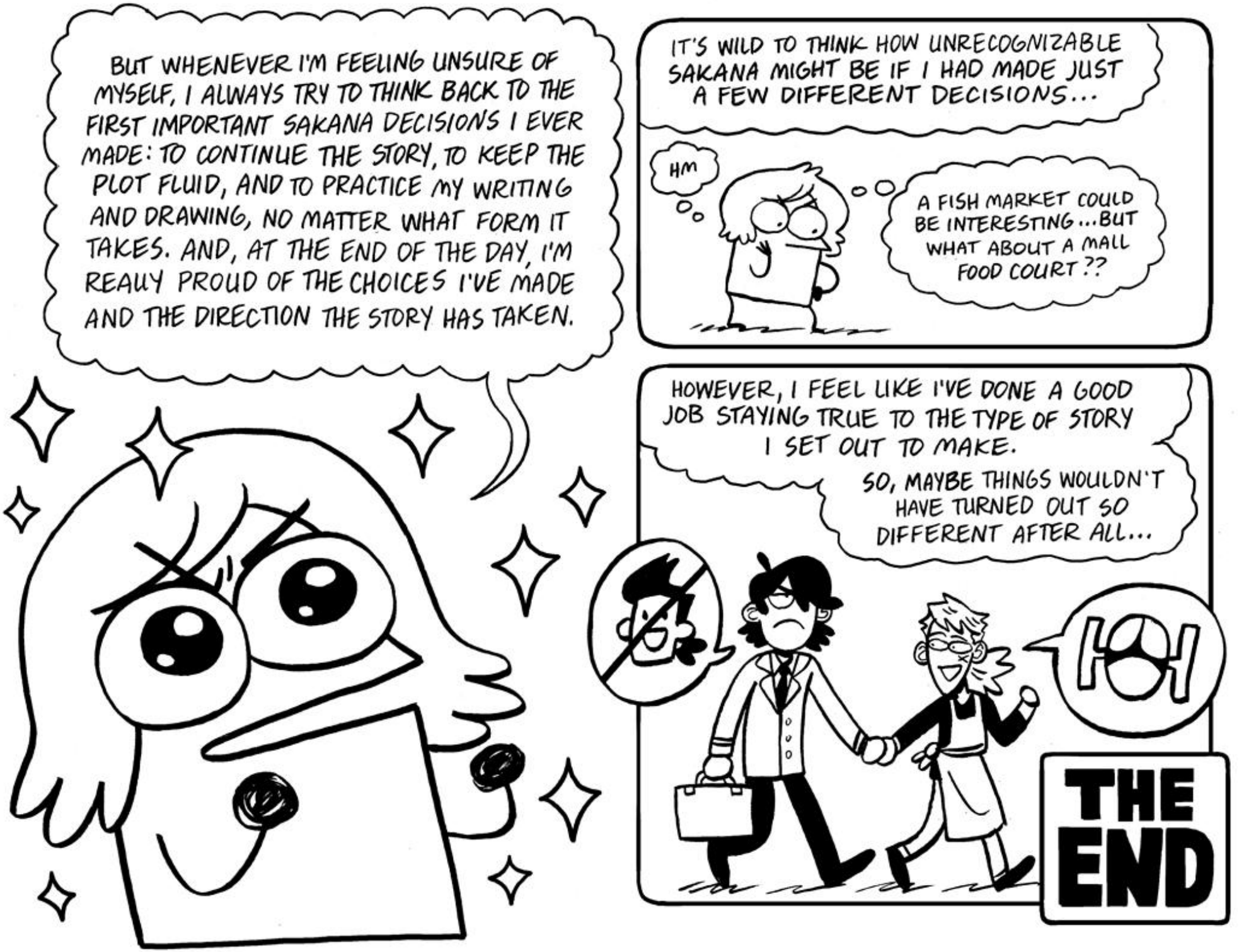


THIS MYSTERY LEADS TO MY NEXT POINT....


TAISEI AND YUUDAI HAD SWITCHED PERSONALITIES!
TSK—
I WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNING TO GIVE JIRO AND TARO A MEAN ROOMMATE TO COUNTERACT THEIR POSITIVE FISH MARKET EXPERIENCE. BUT AFTER THE COWORKER POLL, I DECIDED THE MORE DRAMATIC OPTION WOULD BE TO MAKE THEIR SINGLE COWORKER A TYRANT AND THEIR ROOMMATE A SUPER NICE GUY.
THIS SPONTANEOUS DECISION IS WHY YUUDAI DOESN'T SHOW UP IN CHAPTER ONE!
IT PRETTY MUCH GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE COMIC WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MUCH SHORTER THAN IT TURNED OUT TO BE.
"HOW SHORT" YOU ASK? ORIGINALLY, ARATA'S INTRO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE FIRST DATE.
TARO, TAISEI, AND YUUDAI WOULD DUCK INTO A MALL TO AVOID JIRO. THERE, THEY'D RUN INTO WHAT I CALL "PROTO-ARATA!"
??
THE MALL
ENTRANCE
HE WAS JUST AN EX-BOYFRIEND CHARACTER AT THAT POINT, WITH NO SOLID DESIGN. HE WOULD NEVER SHOW UP AGAIN.
LOL

I CONSIDERED DOING A FLASHBACK CHAPTER TO EXPLAIN JIRO AND TARO'S CHILDHOOD, BUT WITH EACH NEW PLOT DEVELOPMENT, IT BECAME HARDER TO FIND A GOOD PLACE TO ADD IT IN.
IT ALSO SEEMED TOO ANGSTY FOR THE GENERAL TONE OF THE STORY.
SINCE THEN, THE OVERALL THEME OF THE COMIC HAS SHIFTED TO CHARACTERS HELPING EACH OTHER WITH CURRENT PROBLEMS, RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON THEIR PASTS.
BECAUSE THE COMIC WAS MEANT TO BE MUCH SHORTER, MANY CHARACTERS WERE DEVELOPED ON THE FLY, RATHER THAN PLANNED FROM THE START.
THE FIRST 11 STRIPS IMPLIED THAT ONLY SAKANAS WORKED AT THE STALL. I WAS CREATED TO INCREASE THE STAFF COUNT AND ADD MORE DRAMA.
YOU CAN'T JUST HAVE A NICE DATE IN A ROMANTIC COMEDY! I WAS MADE TO COMPLICATE THINGS.
IN A STORY BUILT ON MISCOMMUNICATIONS, I COMPLICATE THINGS EVEN FURTHER!
I'M A CHARACTER WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE WANTS, SO I ACT AS A BREAK FROM THE TURMOIL!
EVERY LONG-FORMAT STORY NEEDS A BIG BAD VILLAIN, RIGHT?
WE WERE MEANT AS THROWAWAY CHARACTERS, BUT WHY WASTE GOOD DESIGNS? OUR ROLES IN THE STORY CONTINUE TO CHANGE AND EXPAND BEHIND THE SCENES!

A BUNCH OF IMPORTANT CHARACTER-BUILDING MOMENTS WERE ALSO ADDED ON THE FLY...


BUT WHENEVER I'M FEELING UNSURE OF MYSELF, I ALWAYS TRY TO THINK BACK TO THE FIRST IMPORTANT SAKANA DECISIONS I EVER MADE: TO CONTINUE THE STORY, TO KEEP THE PLOT FLUID, AND TO PRACTICE MY WRITING AND DRAWING, NO MATTER WHAT FORM IT TAKES. AND, AT THE END OF THE DAY, I'M REALLY PROUD OF THE CHOICES I'VE MADE AND THE DIRECTION THE STORY HAS TAKEN.
IT'S WILD TO THINK HOW UNRECOGNIZABLE SAKANA MIGHT BE IF I HAD MADE JUST A FEW DIFFERENT DECISIONS...
HM
A FISH MARKET COULD BE INTERESTING...BUT WHAT ABOUT A MALL FOOD COURT??
HOWEVER, I FEEL LIKE I'VE DONE A GOOD JOB STAYING TRUE TO THE TYPE OF STORY I SET OUT TO MAKE.
SO, MAYBE THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE TURNED OUT SO DIFFERENT AFTER ALL...
HI
THE END